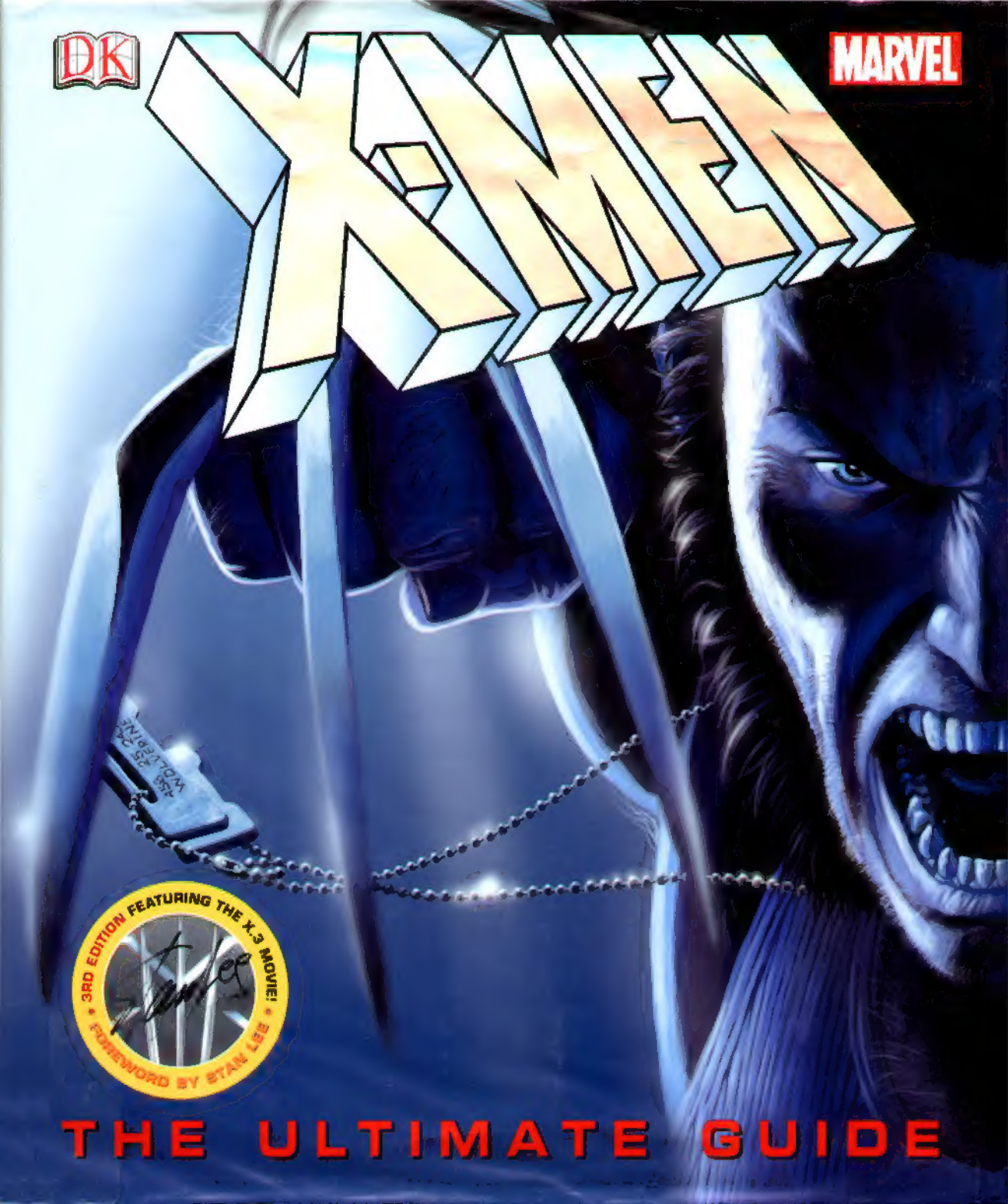
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X-MEN

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

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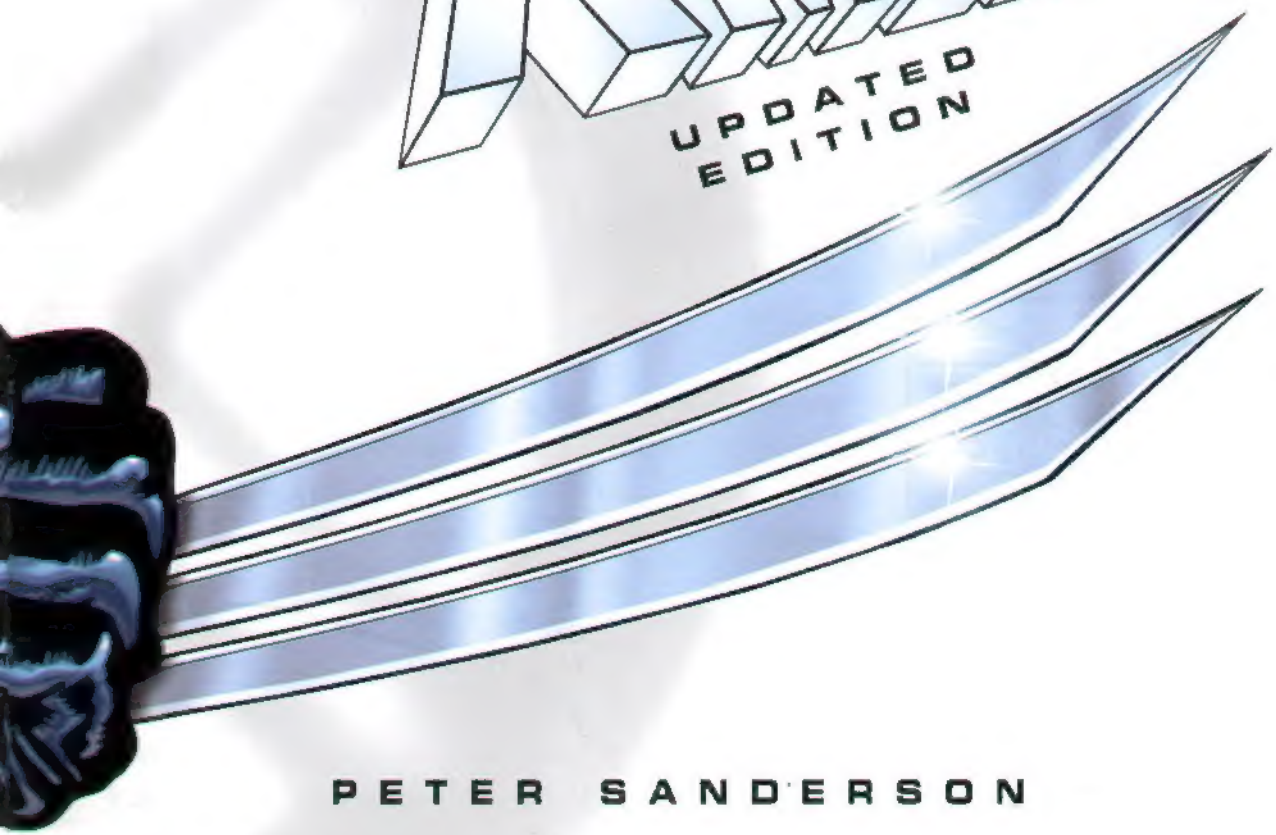

PETER SANDERSON

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FOREWORD

WHO KNEW THEY'D *MULTIPLY* THE WAY THEY DID?!
I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE CREATED A BUNCH'A RABBITS!

WHY "THE X-MEN"? LET ME TRY TO EXPLAIN....

It was the year 1963. Marvel Comics had already bestowed "The Fantastic Four," "The Incredible Hulk," and "Spider-Man" upon an unsuspecting though grateful world. But the comic-book-reading public's appetite proved to be insatiable. They demanded more, still more Super Heroes—and we were determined to rise to the challenge.

Staring at my typewriter (alas, the personal computer had not yet been invented), I endeavored to create a team of Super Heroes with unique powers. But even before dreaming up those powers, I knew I'd have to explain where they came from.

You may recall that the Fantastic Four had been inundated by cosmic rays, the Hulk had been the victim of a massive gamma-ray explosion, and Spider-Man had been bitten by a radioactive spider. That accounted for cosmic rays, gamma rays, and radioactive spider bites. But I knew I couldn't keep hitting the public with a constant barrage of rays and radiation.

Suddenly, an idea hit me; an idea that was simplicity itself and which guaranteed I'd never have to worry about explaining the origin of a superpower again!

It hit me when I thought of the word "mutant." We all know that mutations occur in nature. For no apparent reason a frog will be born with three legs, or a banana will be the size of a watermelon, or a child prodigy will have the ability to play Mozart at the age of three. And the beautiful thing about such mutations is they don't require any explanation. They can happen to anyone. Once I decided that our little cast of characters would have mutant powers, the rest was simplicity itself. I merely had to decide who our team would be and who would lead it.

For their leader, I thought it would be interesting to have a man who was seemingly the weakest of all, a man in a wheelchair. But, that man, Professor Charles Xavier, would have incredible mental powers and would be able to mold the others into a formidable fighting team. For sheer strength, I created the Beast; but once again, to go against the usual cliché, I made him the most literate and eloquent of all the team. Then, having always liked the Fantastic Four's Human Torch, I thought it would be fun for our new group to include his exact opposite, Iceman. Add the winged flying Angel, the telekinetically powered Marvel Girl, and the somewhat tragic Cyclops, who always had to wear special eyeglasses to shield his deadly eye beams, and you had the original X-Men—a far cry from the countless new and fantastic members that have been constantly added to the world's most colorful cast of characters ever since those early days.

Another character I was always extremely fond of was the villain Magneto. I felt that his mastery of magnetism was one of the most interesting powers of all. And I'll admit to having a soft spot in my heart for the Blob, Juggernaut, and the Toad as well.

Today, of course, there are so many X-Men heroes and villains that hardly anyone can name them all without referring to a reference book. Over the years, Wolverine has definitely become the star of the series, although everyone has his or her own particular favorites.

Now, before I turn you loose, you may have wondered how the title "X-Men" was chosen. Here's the inside scoop.

I originally wanted to call the book "The Mutants," but my publisher rejected the title because he doubted that most comic-book readers would know what the word "mutant" meant. After thinking about it for a while, it occurred to me that all our characters had an extra power and their leader's name was Professor Xavier—so I suggested the name "X-Men." My publisher okayed it, but I laughed to myself as I left his office, thinking, "If people wouldn't know what a 'mutant' is, how on earth would they know what an 'X-Man' is?" However, happy that we had a title at last, I never posed that little question to him.

And now, having paid your literary dues, it's time for you to enjoy the wonderment on the pages ahead. But it isn't goodbye because I'll be with you in spirit.

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

INTRODUCTION

THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS have brought extraordinary social and technological changes. In the world of the X-Men, they have also brought the evolution of the human race to a crossroads. Throughout the world, individuals were born who developed unusual, superhuman abilities as they grew into adolescence. They were mutants: people born genetically different from the rest of humankind. Some people saw the rise of these superhuman mutants as the next step in human evolution. Many, however, regarded mutants as dangerous freaks, threatening the existence of the "normal" human race.

The growing numbers of mutants needed a champion, and they found one in a visionary named Charles Xavier. A mutant himself, Xavier had a dream of a future in which "normal" humans and mutants would live together in peace and harmony. It was to make his dream a reality that Xavier created his organization of young mutants, the X-Men.

He turned his home, a mansion close to New York City, into a school for young mutants. Xavier realized that these adolescents might be as frightened of their new powers as the humans around them were; he showed them how to master their mutant abilities and to take pride in them. Xavier's mansion was also a haven for his young students. In the outside world these young mutants would be outcasts; within Xavier's mansion they found others like themselves. Xavier's school became the center of a growing community of mutants, an alternative to the hostile society that lay outside its doors.

Xavier had another motive in founding the X-Men. He knew that there were other mutants who were indeed the threats that humanity imagined all mutants to be. Among them was another mutant with a vision opposed to his, Magneto. A victim of the Holocaust in his childhood, Magneto knew the horrors humanity was capable of perpetrating on those who differed in some way from the majority. Magneto vowed that he would use any means he considered necessary to prevent the evolving race of mutants from suffering a similar fate. Ironically, the Nazis' victim had developed his own master race philosophy: he contended that mutants, with their superhuman powers, deserved to supplant bigoted humanity as rulers of the planet. Xavier saw it as his responsibility to stop Magneto and other mutants who sought to exploit, conquer, or even destroy humanity. Utilizing their mutant powers, Xavier and his X-Men would fight to defend the very humans who regarded them with fear and distrust.

Xavier began with only five mutant pupils, but far more have joined his cause since then. Not only have the ranks of the X-Men swelled, but other mutant groups have formed: the New Mutants, X-Factor, Excalibur, X-Force, and Generation X. Yet as the years have passed, Xavier's efforts to bring about what he has called "a golden age" for mutants and humans have grown more difficult. Human fear and hatred of mutants has manifested itself in increasingly violent actions organized by mobs, politicians, and paramilitary forces. Yet Xavier and the X-Men struggle onward, searching for tolerance amid an increasingly contentious world.

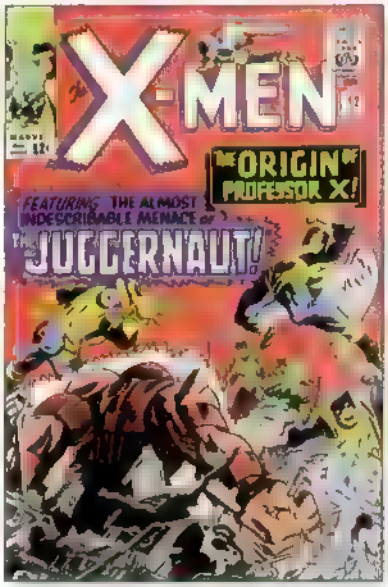
ROMITA

SIXTIES

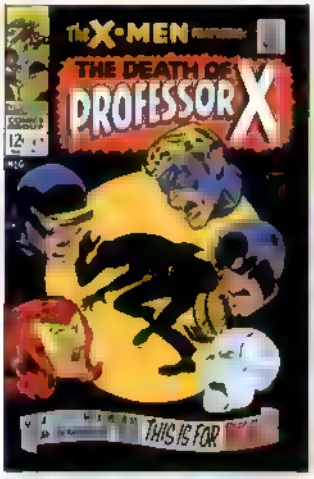
THE X-MEN IN THE 1960s

X-MEN is currently the best-selling American comic, but this was not always the case. In its first decade, far from being a fan favorite, the series was a commercial failure.

Making its debut in 1963, *X-Men* was the creation of writer/editor Stan Lee and penciler/co-plotter Jack Kirby, the two men most responsible for building the Marvel universe. Together, Lee and Kirby had already created the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, Thor, and Iron Man, among many others. Within the initial 17 bimonthly issues of this new comic book series, Lee and Kirby not only created the original X-Men, Magneto, Juggernaut, and the Sentinels, but firmly established the theme of humanity's persecution of the mutants. For the last five of those issues Werner Roth (under his alias Jay Gavin) had been doing the finished pencil artwork over Kirby's layouts, and Roth took over fully with issue 18. Two issues later, new talent Roy Thomas started writing *X-Men*, the first major Super Hero assignment in what has become a long and impressive career. Though still underrated, the Thomas-Roth team won the admiration of many for their appealing and sensitive characterizations of the original X-Men.



X-Men #14 (July 1965)
First appearance of Juggernaut
(Cover art by Jack Kirby)



X-Men #42 (April 1968)
"The Death of Professor X"
(Cover art by John Buscema)

Nevertheless, compared to the creative fireworks in other Marvel series of the time, *X-Men* seemed only a secondary title. Marvel began a series of experiments to attract new readers, giving the X-Men colorful, individualized costumes in issue 39, and, most shockingly, killing off Professor X in issue 42. Shortly thereafter, the team broke up, and the book instead featured stories about different pairings of X-Men. This did not work, and the team quickly regrouped in issue 49. Jim Steranko, one of the most exciting and innovative comics artists of the decade, started drawing the book but left after two issues.

Sales had fallen dangerously low, but now Roy Thomas returned to the title in collaboration with artist Neal Adams. Adams combined the visual dynamism of Kirby with his own background in illustration into a style blending heightened realism, idealized beauty, and epic grandeur. At the decade's end *X-Men* had at last become the equal of the best Super Hero comics of its time.

X-Men #1 (Sept. 1963)
First appearance of the X-Men and Magneto
(Cover art by Jack Kirby)

X-Men #14 (Nov. 1965)
First appearance of the Sentinels
(Cover art by Jack Kirby)

X-Men #19 (April 1966)
First appearance of Mimic
(Cover art by Jack Kirby and Werner Roth)

X-Men #56 (May 1969)
First appearance of the Living Monolith
First cover by Neal Adams

X-Men #33 (December 1966)
First appearance of the X-Men's new costumes
(Cover art by George Tuska)

1967

X-Men #20 (Jan. 1967)
First appearance of Banshee
(Cover art by Jack Kirby and Werner Roth)

1968

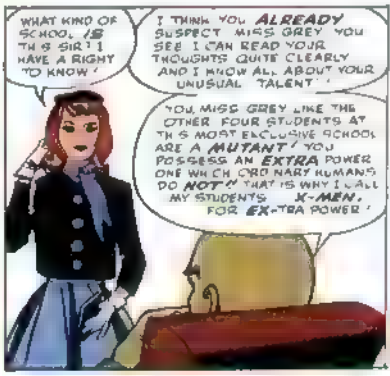
X-Men #49 (Oct. 1968)
First cover art by Jim Steranko

1969

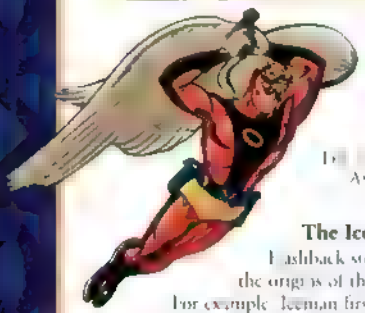
X-Men #61 (Oct. 1969)
Sauron against Angel
(Cover art by Neal Adams)

Making an entrance

The panel to the left is from the first page of the first issue of the original *X-Men* series, from 1963. This remarkable issue introduced Charles Xavier, his "School for Gifted Mutants," and his original mutant students. Xavier explained that their mission was to protect humanity from "evil mutants" and then sent his X-Men into their first battle against their greatest mutant nemesis, Magneto.



MARVEL GIRL
1960: Marvel heroines tended to have powers that did not require them to grapple physically with their enemies. Nonetheless, even then Marvel Girl proved to be a surprisingly formidable adversary. In later decades, X-Men would become known for strong female characters who were the equals of their male colleagues.

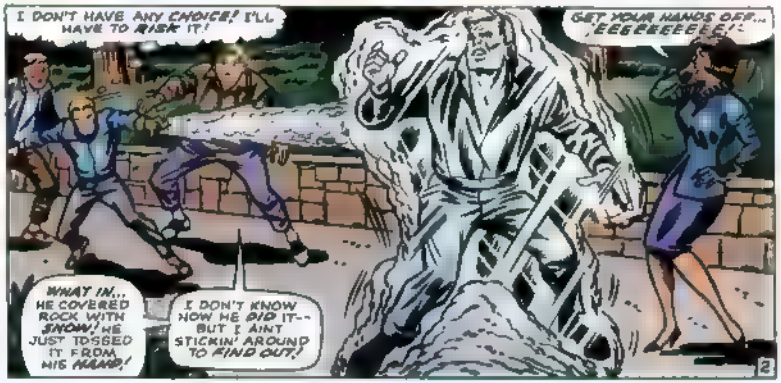


Before joining the X-Men, Angel wore a vigilante

THE AVENGING ANGEL

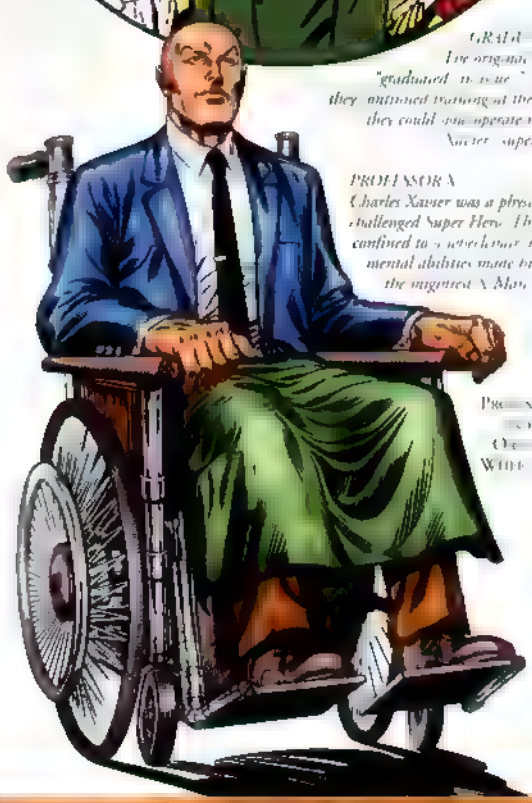
The Iceman cometh

Flashback stories recounted the origins of the male X-Men. For example, Iceman first publicly used his powers to rescue his girlfriend from an assailant. Rather than honoring Iceman's heroism, frightened townspeople tried to kill him.



CHANGING FACES—1960s

GRADUATION
The original X-Men "graduated" in issue 7, though they continued training at the school. They could now operate without Xavier's supervision.



PROFESSOR X
Charles Xavier was a physically challenged Super Hero. Though confined to a wheelchair, his mental abilities made him the mightiest X-Man.

PROFESSOR X
[illegible]
WHEELCHAIR

WHEN CHARLES XAVIER'S original students—Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Beast, and Iceman—first appeared they were teenagers attending school, much like their potential readers. But they were also the X-Men, young mutants capable of shouldering adult responsibilities. In the series' first issue Xavier sent them into what he called their "baptism of fire": their first battle against the man who was to become their archenemy, Magneto. The X-Men thwarted his attempted takeover of the Cape Citadel missile base, and over the coming months they clashed repeatedly with Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants.

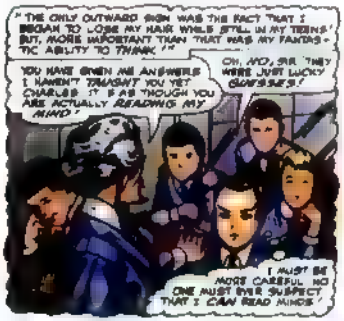
It was soon clear that the introverted Cyclops—Scott Summers—was deeply in love with Marvel Girl—Jean Grey—but felt his dangerous mutant power made it impossible for him to become close to anyone. Jean was equally attracted to Scott but likewise shy. Several years passed before they admitted their feelings to each other. In their true identities, Iceman, Beast, and Angel found their own girlfriends. Zelda the waitress, Vera the librarian, and heiress Candy Southern, respectively. They regularly congregated at the Coffee A-Go-Go in Manhattan's Greenwich Village and listened to its beatnik bard, Bernard the Poet.

Though Xavier warned of humanity's fear and distrust of mutants in issue 1, the X-Men were treated as heroes by humans in their first two issues. But in issue 5, the X-Men rescued a mutant from an enraged mob, and three issues later another antimutant crowd attacked Beast and Iceman. Then in issue 14 scientist Bolivar Trask set off a frenzy in the media by proclaiming that, unless stopped, mutants would conquer humanity. Trask introduced his inventions, the mutant-hunting Sentinel robots, and the X-Men have been treated as outcasts ever since.

The 1960s saw the X-Men's first clash with the Juggernaut, their earliest journeys to the Savage Land, and the introduction of their next member, the Mimic. The X-Men first met the Banshee when he unwillingly served the Factor Three conspiracy. With its defeat, Xavier rewarded his students with new, individualized costumes. The X-Men were shocked when Xavier died (or so it seemed) in their final battle against Grotesk. The team split apart, but soon reunited. They also gained new mutant allies: Lorna Dane and Cyclops' brother Havok. As the decade closed, the X-Men first battled the Living Monolith, Larry Trask's new Sentinels, and Sauron, before vying against Magneto once again.

PROFESSOR X

THE PUBLIC KNOWS Professor Charles Xavier as one of the world's leading authorities on genetics and mutation. But they do not know that Xavier himself is a mutant who is the most powerful telepath alive, able both to read minds and to communicate mentally with others. Nor is it generally known that Xavier is the founder and leader of the mysterious group of mutants called the X-Men. What is most important about Xavier, however, is the dream to which he has dedicated his life and work: that someday mutants and the rest of humanity will live together in peace.



Charles Xavier's telepathic powers began to emerge while he was in his early teens. As a side effect, by the time he graduated high school he was completely bald. A genius, he entered college at 16, graduated in two years, and went on to do graduate work at Oxford University.

TRAVELING MAN

Charles' mental powers began emerging when he was a boy. While attending graduate school he fell in love with his fellow student Moira MacTaggert, but when she broke their engagement he began traveling around the world. In Egypt he first met and battled a criminal mutant, Amahl Farouk. As a result of this encounter, Charles decided to dedicate himself to protecting mutants and humans from harming one another. Xavier went to Israel, where he met and became friends with the young Eric Lehnsherr, who later became Magneto. Finally, in Tibet, Xavier led a successful rebellion against an extraterrestrial conqueror, Lucifer, who took revenge by crippling Xavier's legs. Returning to America, Xavier eventually conceived the idea of his school for teaching young mutants how to master their superhuman abilities. Although he was confined to a wheelchair, his students, the X-Men, would battle criminal mutants in his stead. Xavier continues to head the X-Men today and has founded two other mutant teams, the New Mutants and Generation X.

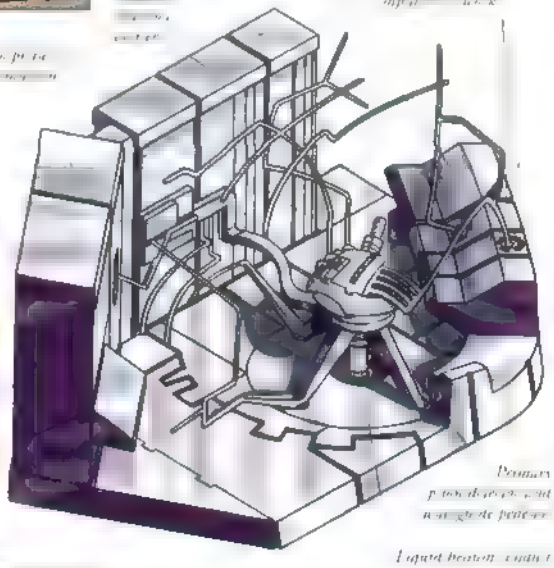
ASTRAL PROJECTION
Xavier's astral form can leave his body to travel in physical reality or on astral planes of existence. Sometimes, when he communicates telepathically with the X-Men, they mentally "see" an astral image of his head.

Hoverchair

Originally Xavier used a nonmotorized wheelchair (see top left illustration). But after he fell in love with the alien Princess Lilandra he accompanied her back to the Shi'ar galaxy, where he acquired his first hoverchair. Employing Shi'ar technology, Xavier's hoverchair floats just above the ground and is more maneuverable than any wheelchair.

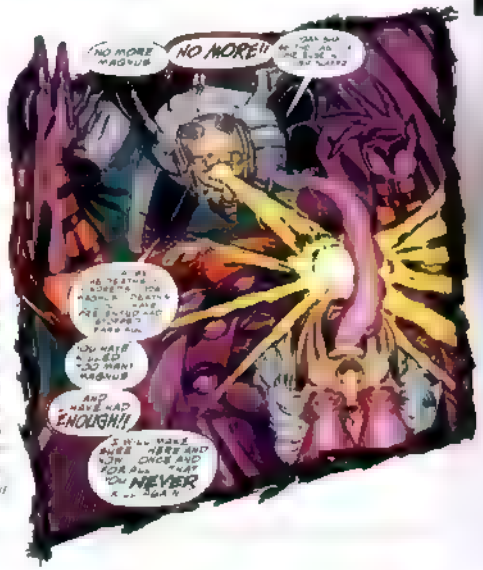
Xavier crippled

[illegible] had been enslaved by a mysterious [illegible] Xavier led a revolt against the masked tyrant [illegible] himself Lucifer, and who was the advance [illegible] in alien invasion. Defeated, Lucifer [illegible] crippling his legs. This tragedy motivated Xavier to [illegible] the X-Men, if he could not go into action, then he would train others to combat evil mutants instead.



Cerebro

[illegible] perhuman mutants by [illegible] powers to boost Cerebro's [illegible] portable [illegible]



ON SCREEN

Professor Xavier is one of the characters in the *X-Men* movie who is the least different from his forebear in the comics. In both media Xavier is a wise visionary striving to create harmony between mutants and "normal" humans. As in the comics, Xavier is a powerful telepath, and he uses this power to read the minds of others, including Senator Kelly, through whom he learns of Magneto's plans.

Professor X also uses his psychic powers to influence people's minds, guiding the confused Wolverine around the mansion by making him "hear" approaching footsteps. One other power he exhibits is an ability to take control of others, as he does so with Sabretooth in an attempt to stop Magneto from killing the helpless policemen outside the Westchester train station. As in the comics, Xavier's Mansion in New York State is the site of a school for mutants. When we first see this school in the film, it is already populated by a number of different mutants of different ages. Although little is revealed of his own past in the movie, we learn that, as in the comics, Charles Xavier is the former friend of the man who has now become his archenemy, Magneto.

CYCLOPS

Scott Summers wears glasses with ruby quartz lenses to diffuse his eye beams harmlessly

THE FIRST YOUNG MUTANT to be recruited into the X-Men, Scott Summers, alias Cyclops, has always been the team member who is the most dedicated to Xavier's ideals. Cyclops has long borne the responsibility of leading the other X-Men in combat. But an even greater burden is the nature of his own mutant power. He continually emits force beams from his eyes; only the ruby quartz lenses of his visor and glasses can safely disperse this energy. Scott lives with the knowledge that he could kill a man merely by glancing at him. The son of Air Force pilot Major Christopher Summers, Scott was forced to leap from his father's burning plane when he was a boy and was placed in an orphanage. When Scott first unintentionally unleashed a power blast, terrified onlookers turned into a mob and pursued him. Eventually, he was found by Xavier, who made him the first member of the X-Men. Scott proved to be Xavier's prize pupil, and the Professor made him the X-Men's deputy leader. At one point Cyclops helped found a new team, X-Factor, but he always returns to the X-Men.

SCOTT AND JEAN

For years, the emotionally reserved Scott secretly loved his fellow X-Man, Jean Grey. However, he believed that his powers made it too dangerous for him to become close to anyone. During a period when he thought Jean was dead, Scott married Madelyne Pryor, and they had a son, Nathan. But since then, Scott and Jean were reunited and are now husband and wife.

The first X-Man
When Scott first publicly used his powers, he was forced to flee from a mob. A criminal mutant with diamond-hard hands named Jack O'Diamonds found Scott and forced him to become his accomplice. Xavier rescued Scott and invited him to become the nucleus of the new team he was forming. Thus, Cyclops became the first X-Man.

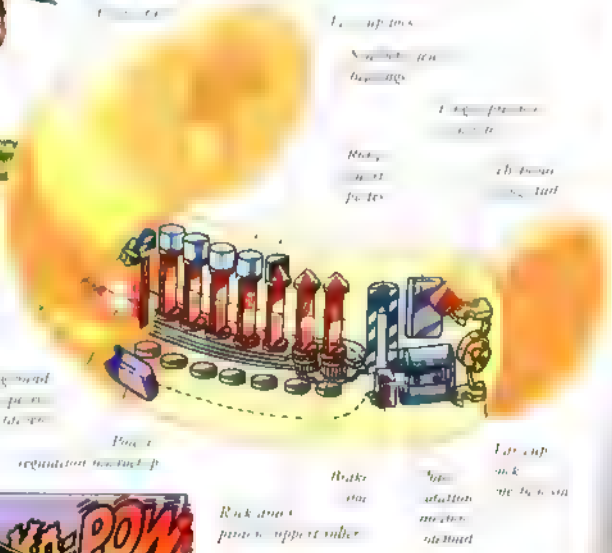
Cyclops' body is immune to his own optic energy

Deadly gaze
When Scott parachuted from his father's plane, he suffered brain damage on landing. As a result, when his mutant power emerged, he was unable to shut off his optic blasts at will. As long as his eyes are open, enough energy shoots from them to kill a human being.

Cyclops can also block his eye beams by shutting his eyes

Cyclops' visor

[illegible] that diffuses his optic energy. To operate his [illegible]

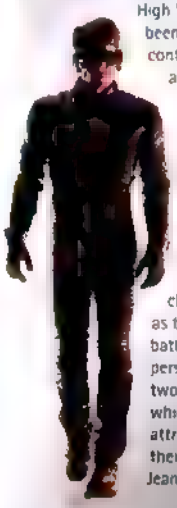


The power of Cyclops

Cyclops' body absorbs solar energy and converts it into the ruby-red concussive force that shoots from his eyes. Cyclops' power beam can puncture a half inch carbon-steel plate at a distance of less than a yard. He and his younger brother Alex, alias Havok, are immune to each other's power blasts.

ON SCREEN

As in the comics, the *X-Men* movie version of Scott Summers was the first mutant to be recruited into the X-Men. And, as in the comics, Cyclops fires force beams from his eyes. These beam are controlled by a visor or special glasses. During the film, Scott shows the power of these force beams when he nearly demolishes Westchester train station. He also shows his ability to finely control them using his visor, when he shatters the Toad's hardened slime which is suffocating Jean Grey.



Since he discovered his powers at his High School Prom, Scott has been aware that he must continually guard against accidentally harming people with his optic blasts. Over the years, this has given him a rigid and introverted personality. This is in stark contrast to the more relaxed attitude of the newly arrived Wolverine, who challenges Cyclops' ability as the X-Men's leader in battle. The clash of personalities between the two leads to some friction, which is made worse by the attraction of both men to their beautiful teammate, Jean Grey.

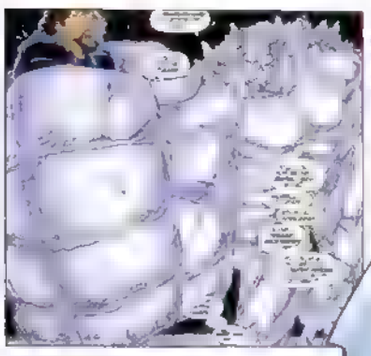
ICEMAN

THE YOUNGEST of the original X-Men, Robert Drake has the mutant ability to lower temperatures both inside and outside his own body to subzero levels without harming himself. As a result, Bobby can transform his entire body into ice, making it hardly surprising that he is called Iceman. Bobby can also freeze the moisture in the air around him to create any kind of object he wishes, from bats, to shields, to slides. His powers have continued to evolve over the years, and he recently learned how to transform his body into an icelike substance and then back to human form at will. Although he secretly discovered his powers in his teens, Bobby preferred to lead a mundane existence in a small town on Long Island, New York. But one night he had to use his powers to save his girlfriend from being assaulted. The community panicked, and soon Bobby became the target of a lynch mob. It was Professor Xavier and Cyclops who rescued him and invited him to become the second member of the X-Men.

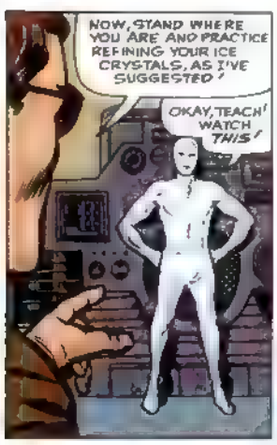
ICEMAN'S DEFENSIVE POWERS
Iceman can use ice for defense, creating thick walls and shields in an instant. This proved invaluable in the teams very first mission against Magneto. To shield the X-Men from the blast of an exploding tanker of rocket fuel, Iceman created a protective ice igloo. As a result, the team survived the explosion and was able to surprise Magneto and drive him away from the military base

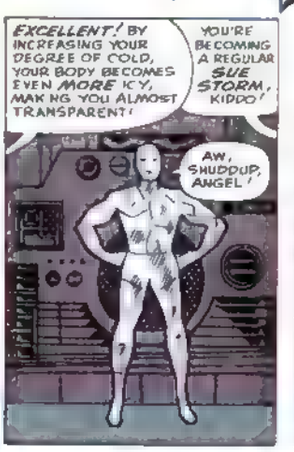
AFTER XAVIER'S SCHOOL

After some time with the X-Men, Bobby quit the team and joined Angel's new group, the Champions. When that group failed, Bobby tried to follow his parents' wishes to lead an ordinary life, studying to become an accountant. Not surprisingly, though, Bobby could not resist rejoining his friends, Beast and Angel, as a member of the Defenders, and later reuniting with the original students of Professor X in X-Factor. He remained with X-Factor until he and his partners dissolved the team and returned to the X-Men. Antimutant bigotry still haunts Bobby's life. His father was nearly killed by thugs working for the antimutant presidential candidate Graydon Creed, for speaking out against the politician.



Massive Iceman
Having recently learned how to [illegible] Iceman can also draw extra water vapor from the air and freeze it to increase the size of his body to [illegible] Iceman also gives [illegible] superhuman strength to match his superhuman size.





Iceman turns transparent
Iceman first learned to turn himself entirely into ice very early in his career with the X-Men. This allowed him to become nearly transparent although not quite invisible like the Fantastic Four's Sue Storm. However, Bobby seemed to forget about this aspect of his powers until recently. When the White Queen took control of his body she rediscovered his ability to turn into ice and proved to him that his powers were much greater than he had realized.

Iceman's guide into a tree along an icy path of [illegible] walking

Iceman forms a defensive [illegible] by freezing water vapor in the air

The youngest of the original X-Men, Bobby Drake [illegible] tempered

[illegible] weapons to attack opponents, from a blizzard of hailstones to a single ice missile

ARCHANGEL

During his early career as a Super Hero, Warren kept his dual identity a secret

HANDSOME AND BORN into vast wealth, Warren Worthington III was a member of society's elite. But when wings began sprouting from his shoulders, Warren thought he was turning into a freak. As his wings grew to full size, though, he discovered that, thanks to his amazing mutant anatomy, he could fly like a bird! Thrilled by this newfound ability, Warren went to New York City and became a masked crime fighter, dubbing himself the Avenging Angel. Soon afterward, the X-Men contacted him, and he became the third member to join the original team, after Cyclops and Iceman. Some years later, Warren publicly revealed his dual identity and used the fortune he had inherited to establish his own Super Hero team, called the Champions, based in Los Angeles. When that team broke up, Angel joined another team, the Defenders, who were based in the Colorado mountain estate jointly owned by Warren and his longtime girlfriend, Candy Southern. Inevitably, though, Angel was reunited with the other original X-Men in founding the New York City-based organization known as X-Factor.

WING HARNESS
Back when Warren Worthington III kept his dual identity a secret, he used a special harness to strap his flexible wings behind his back. He then concealed them under his clothes. In later years, he used a Stark Industries image inducer to create the illusion of a normal appearance in public

CHANGING ANGEL

It was during his time with X-Factor that Angel was seriously wounded in combat by the Marauder Harpoon; this led to the amputation of his original wings. He was then approached by the sinister mutant Apocalypse, who genetically altered Warren, causing his wings to grow back in a strange, metallic form and his skin to turn blue. In exchange for giving him back his wings, Warren served Apocalypse as one of the Four Horsemen, Death. However, he finally came to his senses, left Apocalypse's service and returned to X-Factor, under the new name of Archangel. Since then, not only has Warren returned to the X-Men after X-Factor disbanded, but his wings have regained their original feathered appearance—they had been regenerating beneath the metallic ones all along. His skin, however, remains the blue color it turned after Apocalypse's genetic tampering.

ANGEL'S X-FACTOR COSTUME

THE AVENGING ANGEL

ORIGINAL X-MEN COSTUME

ANGEL'S SECOND COSTUME

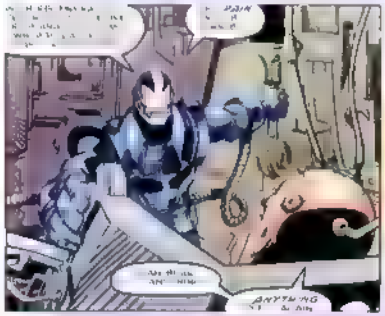
Different costumes

Over the years, Angel has worn a number of different costumes. Even before he met Charles Xavier, Warren had decided to become a Super Hero, fighting crime under the name of the Avenging Angel. His first X-Men costume was black and yellow like those of his fellow classmates. His next outfit was designed by Jean Grey and was a much more colorful affair. After he revealed his identity as a Super Hero, Warren no longer needed to hide his face when going into action as the Angel. As a result, the costumes he's worn since his days with X-Factor have done away with any mask whatsoever. When Warren served Apocalypse as one of his four horsemen, his wings were of an organic metal, and they could shoot feathers that were as sharp as daggers.

Blockbuster *Harpoon*

Clipped wings

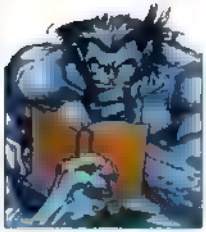
When the team of evil mutant mercenaries called the Marauders massacred the Morlocks, who lived in tunnels beneath Manhattan, Angel and the other members of X-Factor came to the Morlocks' aid. During the fight, one of the assassins, Blockbuster, captured Angel, while another, Harpoon, impaled Angel's wings with two of his trademark weapons. Angel was eventually rescued by the thunder god, Thor, but his wings had been so severely damaged that surgeons had to amputate them.



Apocalyptic change

Warren became depressed and suicidal after he lost his wings. He was so desperate that he agreed to accept the help of one of the X-Men's greatest enemies, Apocalypse. Using his knowledge of genetic science, Apocalypse made Warren undergo extremely painful genetic engineering that turned his skin blue and regrew his wings in a strange metallic form. Under the stress of these events, Warren even agreed to work for his new benefactor in return, as one of his Four Horsemen—Death!

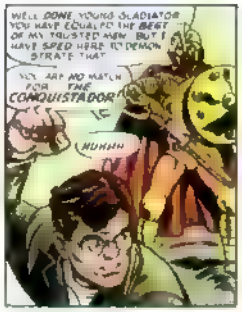
ARCHANGEL WITH METAL WINGS



Despite appearances, Beast [illegible] and an expert on the frontier of genetics.

BEAST

THE BEAST is a paradox. He looks like a friendly, hyperactive, blue-furred ape, literally bouncing off walls or hanging upside down by his feet. But he is really a mutant human named Henry McCoy, a scientist whose extraordinary intellect and expertise in genetics rival those of Charles Xavier. A serious campaigner for mutant rights, Hank has known the pain of being an outcast from normal humanity. Yet he has not only learned to accept his furry appearance, he has also become an inveterate prankster and wit, who delights in showing off his voluminous vocabulary. When he was born, Hank McCoy looked entirely human except for his enormous hands and feet. In college he became a football star, nicknamed "the Beast" for his amazing apelike agility. Hank's growing fame brought him to the attention of Charles Xavier, who made him his fourth recruit into the X-Men. The oldest member of Xavier's original class of students, Hank was also the first to leave.



BEFORE THE X-MEN

[illegible] Hank [illegible] prodigious [illegible] and [illegible] the world. [illegible] Hank was recruited [illegible] the X-Men [illegible] matured into the team.

In his adult form, the [illegible] Beast is recognizable by his furry hands and [illegible] pointed ears.

FURRY BEAST

Hank drank a serum that activated his latent mutations, changing him into his fur-covered form. He joined a Super Hero team, the Avengers, and publicly revealed his true identity. Since then, he has reorganized another team, the Defenders, before rejoining his old classmates from Xavier's school to found X-Factor. He finally returned to the X-Men and the Xavier Institute, where he remains its resident scientist.

FREEING THE BEAST WITHIN

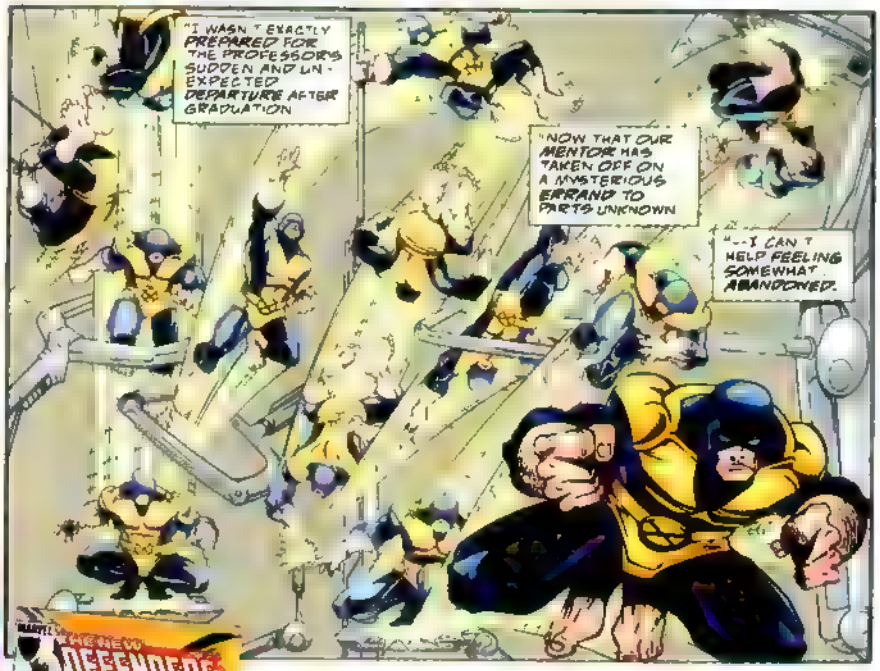
While working as a genetic researcher, Henry McCoy learned that one of his discoveries, a chemical that induced mutations, was about to be stolen. Rather foolishly, Henry drank the chemical, only to be metamorphosed into his non-familiar mutant form.

Beast's athletic powers

Even in human form, Hank possessed superhuman agility. His enormous hands and feet helped him to perform breathtaking jumps and somersaults. His later transformation increased his speed, agility, and reflexes even further, while making him strong enough to lift ten tons of weight. He can perform athletic feats that no Olympic athlete could hope to equal.

Hank, as mutant-hero, was [illegible]

The Beast [illegible] spoke of performing a [illegible] feet and his hands



It's just a normal workout in the Danger Room for the Beast, as he nimbly evades traps and literally bounces off walls with astonishing speed.

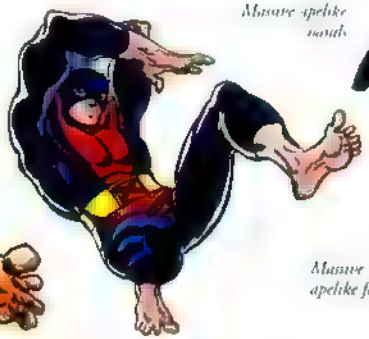
Other teams

After leaving the X-Men, the Beast found a new home with the mighty Avengers, one of Earth's foremost Super Hero teams, whose members included Captain America and Iron Man. The public idolized the Avengers, and as one of them, the Beast shared in the acclaim and acceptance—something the mistrusted X-Men never received. Trying his hand at leading a team of his own, the Beast organized the Defenders. Angel and Iceman served alongside the Beast, and the experience helped prepare them for their subsequent role in cofounding X-Factor with the other original members of the X-Men.

CHANGING FACE
Even in human form, the Beast could walk with an apelike gait. For a short period when he was on X-Factor he regained his human form, but he has since returned to his fur-covered state.

The Beast in his original Xavier's school uniform.

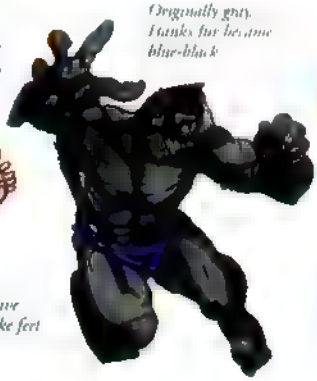
Massive apelike hands



Massive apelike feet

Latter, Jean Grey designed this costume for Hank.

Originally gray, Hank's fur became blue-black



The Beast in his original furry appearance.

The Beast was one of the original members of X-Factor.

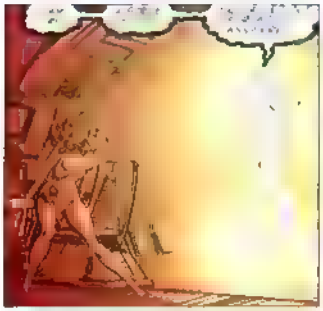
The Beast in his X-Factor uniform.

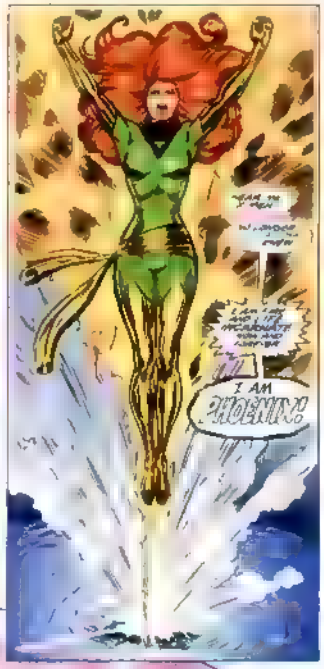
PHOENIX

ALTHOUGH JEAN GREY was the fifth of Xavier's recruits into the X-Men, she was actually the first of his mutant students. Originally code named Marvel Girl and now known as Phoenix, Jean possesses both telepathic powers, enabling her to read minds and communicate mentally, and telekinetic powers, allowing her to levitate and manipulate objects by mental force. Jean's story is inseparable from that of her teammate Scott Summers, alias Cyclops, who is now her husband; the love between these two spans the entire history of the X-Men. When Jean was ten years old, her best friend Annie Richardson was struck by an automobile. It was then that Jean's mutant powers first awoke, and she psychically felt Annie's own emotions as she died. The experience left Jean deeply depressed, and the following year her parents sought out Charles Xavier for help. Xavier tutored her for years and finally inducted her into the newly formed X-Men, giving her the code name Marvel Girl.

"DEATH" AND REBIRTH

Jean and Scott quickly fell in love with each other although years passed before the two shy teenagers admitted their feelings. Later, Jean encountered a cosmic entity of pure energy called the Phoenix Force, which gave itself a human form identical to hers, even incorporating a portion of her consciousness. This being, calling herself Phoenix, then took Jean's place in the X-Men, while Jean's original body lay in suspended animation. When Phoenix went insane, Jean's personality reasserted itself long enough to make Phoenix commit suicide. The other X-Men, including the anguished Scott, believed Jean to be dead. But the part of Jean's consciousness that Phoenix had taken returned to Jean's original body, which awoke from its comalike state. Thus Jean was reunited with Scott, first in X-Factor and then back in the X-Men. She has since adopted the name of Phoenix. Best of all, Jean and Scott are at long last married. Now, as at the beginning, their relationship is at the very heart of the X-Men.





The birth of Phoenix

[illegible]ing a battle in space, Jean was piloting the space shuttle [illegible]orting the X-Men back to Earth when she was exposed [illegible]thal radiation from a solar storm. The Phoenix Force [illegible] her life by casting her into suspended animation in a [illegible] bay off New York City. In this pod she [illegible] recovered [illegible] the ravages of the radiation. Having [illegible] on part of her psyche, an energy being [illegible] from [illegible] in a physical form identical to Jean's, proclaiming [illegible]self to be Phoenix.

Jean in action

When she first joined the X-Men, Jean primarily used her telekinetic powers to lift small objects. But over time her powers have greatly strengthened, making her one of the mightiest of the X-Men. Recently she has sacrificed her telekinesis, at least temporarily, to concentrate on her telepathic abilities.

X-Factor Costume

Later X-Men Costume

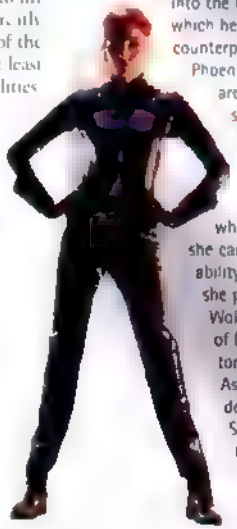
Married at last

From almost their first days in the X-Men, Scott Summers and Jean Grey were in love, although each was too shy to admit it. Their love seemed doomed when the Phoenix Force took Jean's place and died before Scott's eyes. But finally Scott and Jean were united in marriage on the most festive day in the X-Men's history.

ON SCREEN

Although the *X-Men* movie Jean has reddish hair, alluding to the comics version, she wears a functional black uniform instead of the colorful comic book costumes. Moreover, the film's Jean does not use a code name, such as "Marvel Girl" or "Phoenix." In the movie, Jean is a scientist who is an authority on genetic mutation. The public knows that she teaches mutants at Xavier's school, but does not know that she is a mutant herself who learned to use her telekinetic and telepathic powers there.

In the *X-Men* movie, she has yet to tap into the huge psychic potential which her comic book counterpart achieved as Phoenix. Her telepathic skills are still developing. She shows an ability to read Logan's mind, but she struggles to control Cerebro as it tracks down Magneto's whereabouts. However, she can use her telekinetic ability with some skill, as she proves by guiding Wolverine from the Statue of Liberty's crown to its torch in the film's climax. As in the comics, she is deeply in love with Scott Summers, she also has to contend with romantic advances from Logan.



XAVIER'S ESTATE

The insignia of the Xavier Institute for Higher Learning is the emblem of Xavier Mansion is known

THE X-MEN'S BASE of operations is the Xavier Mansion located at 1407 Graymalkin Lane in Salem Center, in Westchester County, New York State. The great house was originally built by a Dutch ancestor of Xavier, using stone from the edge of nearby Breakstone Lake. The entire Xavier estate covers a considerable area, from Graymalkin Lane to Breakstone Lake, which is also known as the Neversink Reservoir. There is an Olympic-size swimming pool directly behind the mansion, and the grounds include stables, a boathouse and docks, and even Japanese gardens. There are also underground hangars and a takeoff pad for the X-Men's Blackbird jets.

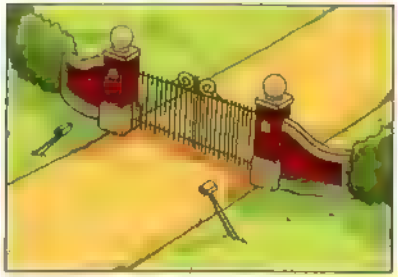
HISTORIC HOUSE
Xavier Mansion has been in Professor X's family for ten generations, since 1698. During that time the mansion has been destroyed and rebuilt a number of times.

Xavier Mansion is situated about three miles outside Salem Center

Alien upgrade

One recent [illegible] of the mansion [illegible] of Shiar technology, especially in the underground facilities. This [illegible] inherent self-improving aspects that [illegible] and replace [illegible] of worn components.

[illegible]



Voice and [illegible] intercom

Mansion security

Security is [illegible] at Xavier Mansion [illegible] from gates equipped with [illegible] visual [illegible] directly to [illegible]. There are also Stark International anti-accelerator field generators to prevent the gates from being rammed.

UNDERGROUND RUNWAY
Situated just under a mile from the mansion, [illegible] underground runway. This [illegible] for short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) [illegible] Even on the X-Men's Blackbird [illegible] capable of vertical takeoff

A high-speed monorail carrier personnel from the mansion to the hangar in just 20 seconds!

Digital radar tower

Light plane turntable and runway

High-speed personnel transport

Boathouse and dock

Runway

INSTALLATION ONLY
The mouth of the runway is equipped with tractor beams which can guide in the aircraft of invited guests. These same tractor beams can be used to repel the attentions of unwelcome visitors.

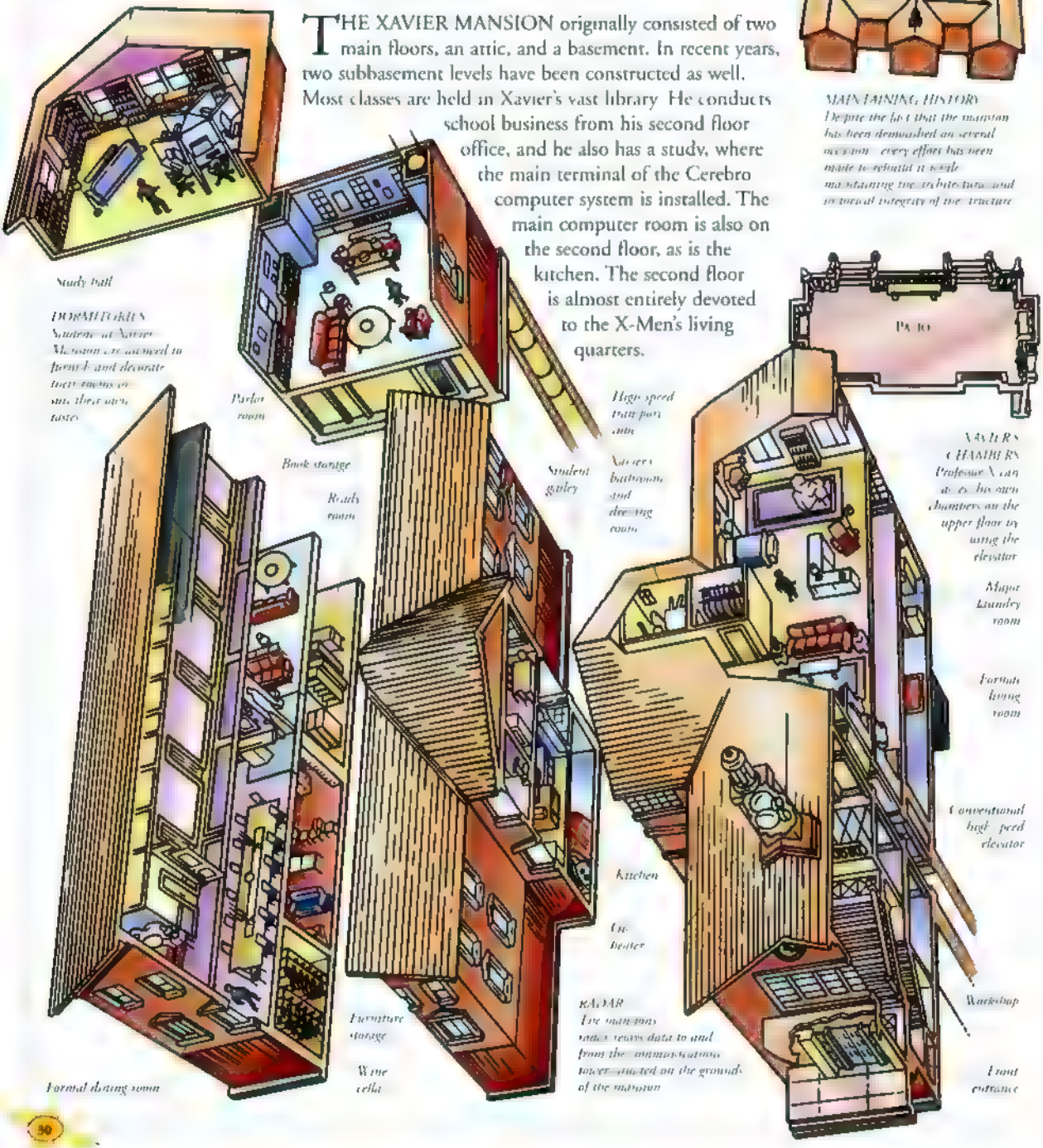
Takeoff and landing ramp

Sensor web patrol area

Hangar complex

XAVIER'S MANSION

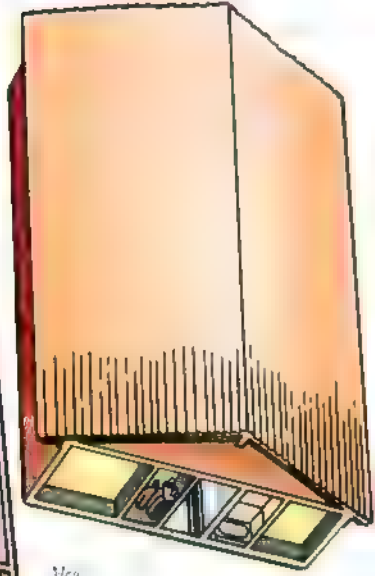
THE XAVIER MANSION originally consisted of two main floors, an attic, and a basement. In recent years, two subbasement levels have been constructed as well. Most classes are held in Xavier's vast library. He conducts school business from his second floor office, and he also has a study, where the main terminal of the Cerebro computer system is installed. The main computer room is also on the second floor, as is the kitchen. The second floor is almost entirely devoted to the X-Men's living quarters.

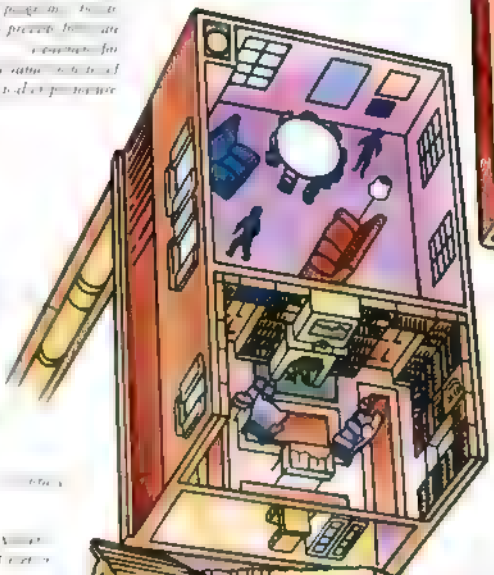


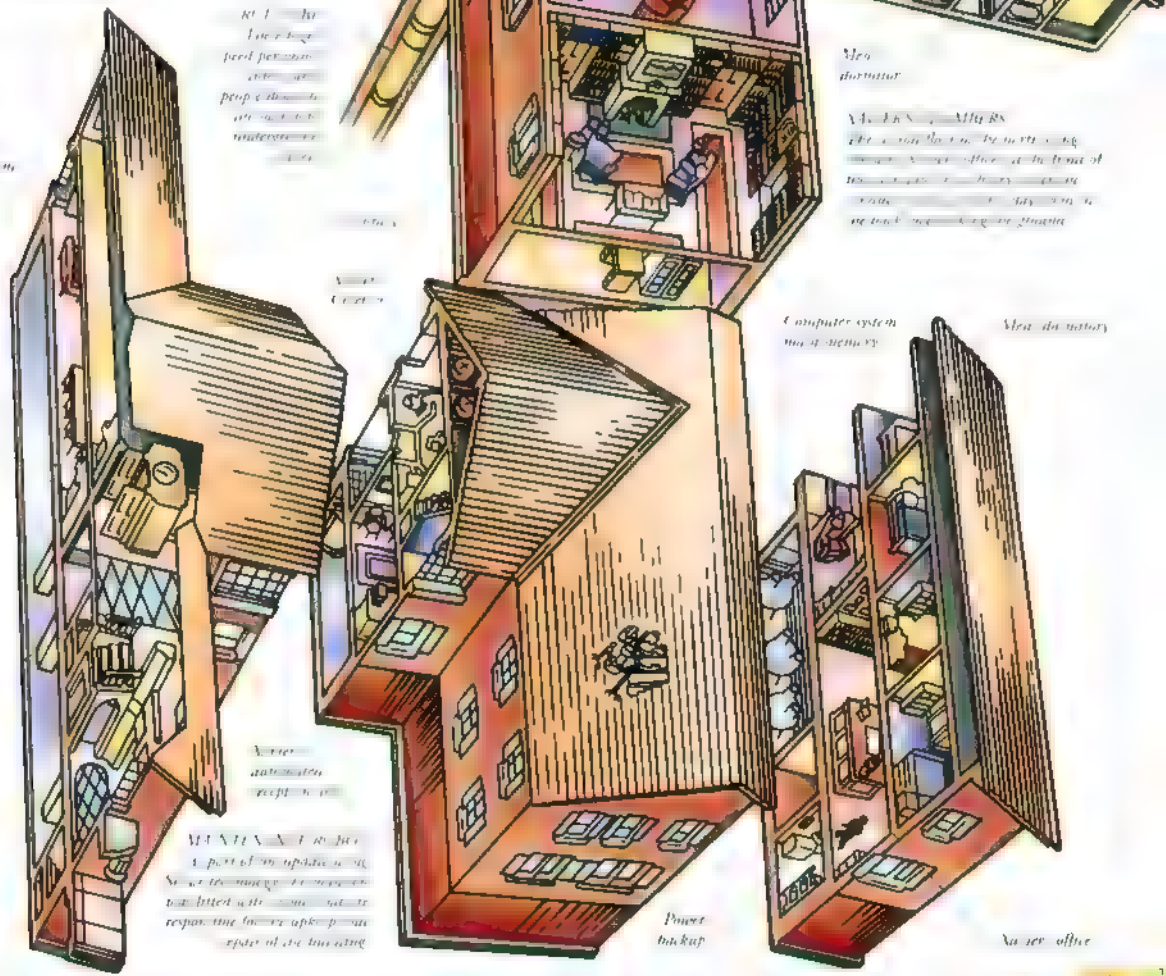
MAINTAINING HISTORY
Despite the fact that the mansion has been demolished on several occasions, every effort has been made to rebuild it while maintaining the architecture and historical integrity of the structure.

Back to school

[illegible] mansion is as a [illegible] higher learning. [illegible] how to use their powers [illegible]. However, that does not excuse [illegible] from more traditional forms of [illegible] classes are held in the [illegible] many studies.







THE DANGER ROOM

Danger Room doors and walls are made of nickel-titanium alloy. In these walls are localized force fields triggered by Master Control Intruder Detection System. Electromechanical security devices also regulate entry to the Ready Room Elevator and Control Room.

THE CENTER OF XAVIER'S training program for mutants is the Danger Room, where the X-Men hone their athletic and combat skills. The original Danger Room was located on the second floor of Xavier's mansion. Within the room the X-Men would in effect run a high-tech obstacle course, contending against anything and everything from metal tentacles to jets of flame to robots. Xavier's relationship with Lilandra, ruler of the alien Shi'ar Empire, led to his creation of a radical new version of the Danger Room concept. The current Danger Room is located on subbasement level two of the mansion and employs Shi'ar technology. Through the use of solid holograms (images created with lasers), the Danger Room can now simulate any environment. Moreover, Shi'ar technology can create a whole range of formidable adversaries for the X-Men to test themselves against.

MUTANT GYM: Originally, the Danger Room was a gymnasium for mutants, specially equipped to challenge the X-Men's unusual abilities. Here, the Danger Room's automatic systems have Beast literally jumping through hoops and bouncing off the walls!

TRAPS GALORE: Aside from normal athletic equipment, the original Danger Room was replete with specially designed traps, ranging from laser beams to steel mesh nets, to a pile driver—and even a huge metal vice!

Redesigned Danger Room

The Danger Room underwent its first renovation when Xavier organized his second generation of X-Men. Xavier could monitor and control its operations from the safety of an observation booth. By now he was pitting his students against sophisticated robots in combat training. With so many things happening in such a small space, the odd near miss happens frequently. Here, a barrage of missiles causes Angel to swerve violently, putting him on a collision path with Nightcrawler.

Holographic Danger Room

Utilizing the futuristic technology of the Shi'ar Empire, Professor Xavier redesigned the Danger Room to create effects far beyond the capabilities of Earth science. Now he can test the X-Men's battle prowess by using holograms to mimic any potentially dangerous setting or adversary he or they can imagine. For instance, the Danger Room can create a solid hologram of Wolverine's archenemy, Sabretooth, for him to battle, thus perfecting his fighting skills.

The holographic generators can create anything—even an "alien world!"

The War Room

Global information is collected by computers in the War Room, located on the same level as the Danger Room. These computers scan for specific data that may be important to the X-Men.

GOING UNDERGROUND
The War Room and Danger Room are currently located in the second subbasement of Professor Xavier's mansion far from the prying eyes of visitors to the estate.

Danger Room

A product of Shi'ar technology, and recently improved on by Forge, the Danger Room generates apparently solid, realistic imagery by manipulating high resolution force fields and holograms. Four high-capacity Shi'ar computers generate room-filling, 32-bit color images at 3000 cycles/second. The force field resolution is on the order of 16 cubic centimeters. The Danger Room is mounted in a "zero-grav" field which resists all induced motions from any user.

MAGNETO

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, Magneto, the master of magnetism, has been the X-Men's foremost adversary. Although he and Charles Xavier were once friends, Magneto now stands in direct opposition to Xavier's dream of peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants. A lifelong victim of bigotry himself, Magneto believes that mutants can only be free if they enslave the rest of the human race. In times past, Magneto used the alias Erik Magnus Lehnsherr, but his true name is a mystery. Little is known about his earliest years, but he is thought to have been born into a gypsy family in 1928. During World War II, he was imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, where his family was slaughtered. After the war, he married a woman named Magda and had a daughter, Anya. When a mob prevented him from rescuing Anya from dying in a fire, Magneto lashed out and killed them all with his emerging mutant power to manipulate the planet's magnetic forces. Over the years, Magneto has developed this ability, making him one of the most powerful mutants alive.

Magneto has the mutant ability to control magnetism and other related electromagnetic forces. As such, he can lift and move enormous objects, control ferrous particles in the atmosphere, and has even attempted to alter the magnetic field of the Earth!

The War with Xavier

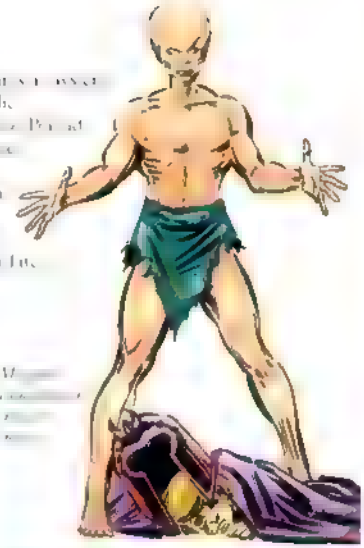
Terrified by Magneto's powers, Magda deserted him, without divulging that she was pregnant with twins (now known as the Super Heroes Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch). Devastated by the loss of his wife and child, Magneto made his way to Israel, where he befriended Charles Xavier. But it was there, embittered by his tragic experiences in Europe, that Magneto became convinced that mutants could only survive if they took control of the planet. Decades later, he launched a terrorist war against the human race, only to be repeatedly thwarted by Xavier and his X-Men. Through a strange series of events, Magneto was rejuvenated, and instead of possessing the body of an elderly man, he appears to be in his physical prime. Recently, he won his first great victory, when the United Nations awarded him sovereignty over the island nation of Genosha. Magneto sees this as a stepping stone to world domination.

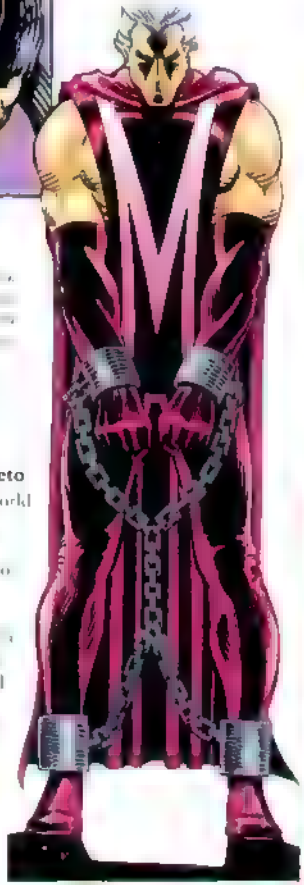
Magneto's helmet gives him power, say from potential a lack.

Magneto's X-Men Costume

Magneto in Auschwitz

[illegible]





The trial of Magneto

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Magneto's Acolytes

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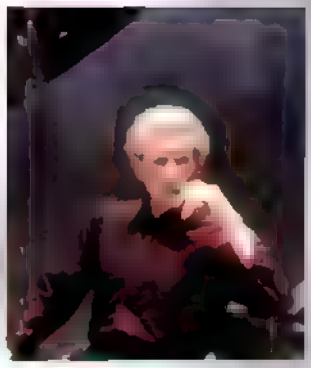
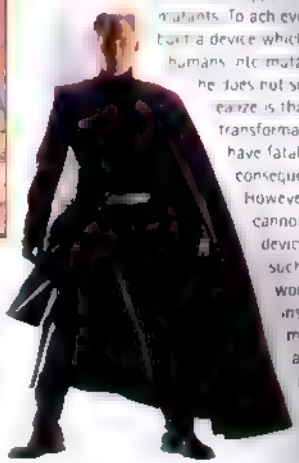
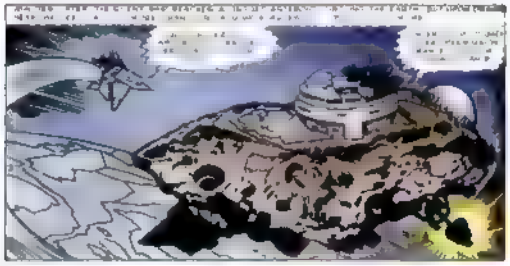


ON SCREEN

As with the comic books, the *X-Men* movie version of Magneto has control over magnetic forces. He can lift cars with ease, snatch weapons out of policemen's hands and turn them back on their owners, and even halt the progress of an entire train. He is also a former friend and colleague of Charles Xavier. The two, however, have formed very different ideas about the future of humans and mutants.

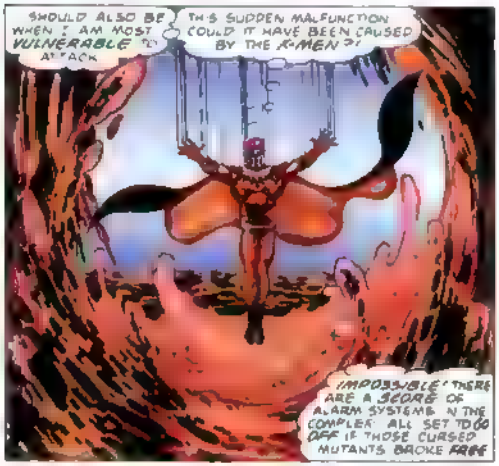
Based on his experiences of the Nazi concentration camps, Magneto is determined to stop the same persecution happening to mutants. To achieve this, he has built a device which will turn humans into mutants. What he does not seem to realize is that this transformation will have fatal consequences. However, Magneto cannot power the device himself, as such an exertion would kill him. Instead, he must find another mutant to do it for him.





Asteroid base

The original X-Men first learned about Asteroid M when Magneto held the Angel prisoner there. Angel's teammates rescued the base by stowing away on the road's spaceship. In the ensuing battle with Magneto's Brotherhood, the asteroid's self-destruct system was activated. The X-Men escaped as it exploded. Magneto survived, and later rebuilt Asteroid M.



By building [illegible] headquarters beneath [illegible] Magneto [illegible] Magneto protected himself from [illegible] of magnetic force.

Fire and lava

When the X-Men fought their way out of imprisonment in Magneto's Antarctic base, the controls for the base's protective dome were destroyed in a spectacular battle. The X-Men and Magneto managed to get to safety just before the volcano exploded and flooded the complex with molten lava.

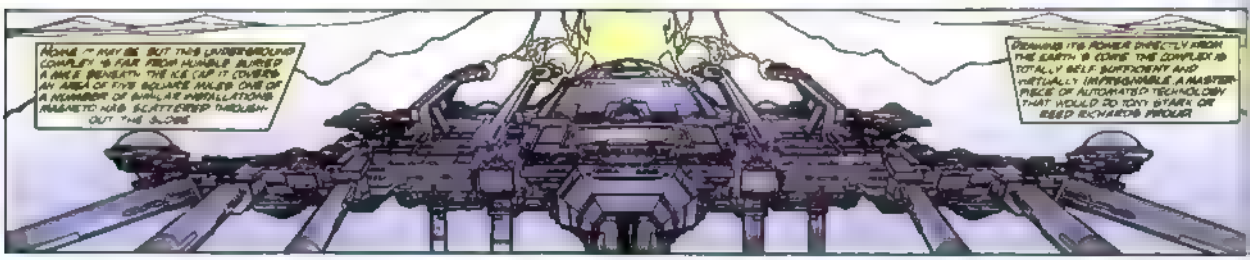
MAGNETO'S BASES

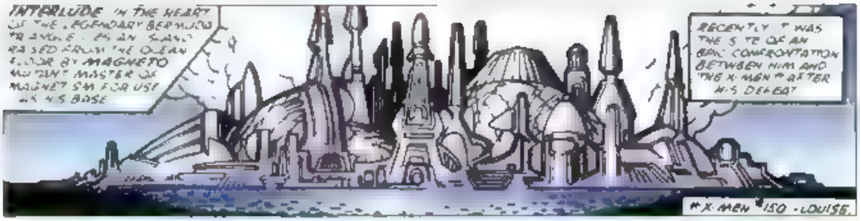
MAGNETO HAS WAGED war against the human race from secret bases in outer space and around the world. The evil mastermind has made sure that each base's location is inaccessible to nonmutants. Two of them are on islands he raised from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. On one of them, he built a base armed with a vast magnet powerful enough to lift a ship into the air. On the other, he housed his base inside a mysterious lost city. Magneto built yet another base beneath an active volcano in Antarctica, and many of his operations were coordinated from a laboratory in the Savage Land itself and a mansion outside New York City. His primary base, however, was always Asteroid M, a massive rock that orbits the Earth. He regarded this location, high above the planet, as symbolic of his superiority over nonmutant humans. Magneto recently renamed his asteroid base "Avalon," after the legendary isle on which King Arthur is said to dwell, awaiting the time when he will again return to rule his people.

From Avalon to Genosha

Magneto saw Avalon as a haven in which mutants could live free from persecution. The asteroid base became a refuge for his Acolytes, a band of mutants who worshipped him as a savior. But despite its remote location, Avalon was attacked and destroyed several times. Recently, after staging an attack on the Earth, Magneto won the largest and what may become the most formidable of his many bases. In a bid to make peace with Magneto, the UN granted him sovereignty over Genosha, an island nation lying off the coast of East Africa. Could this be the foundation of a new terrestrial empire for Magneto?

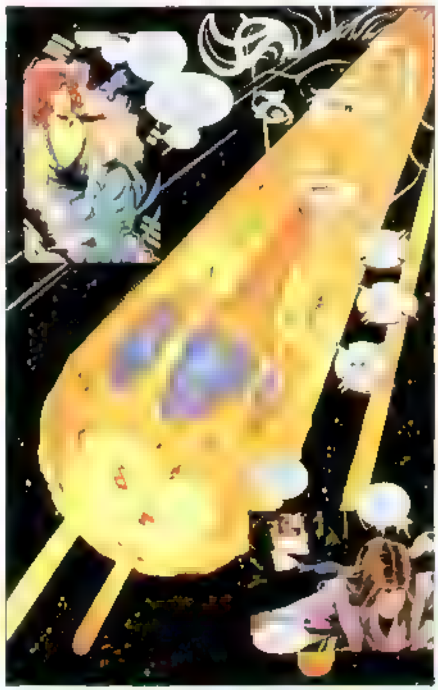
A mile beneath the [illegible] complex spanned three square miles. A ceramic steel dome protected the complex from the intensely [illegible]





Bermuda Triangle

Magneto's first island base is located inside the sinister Bermuda Triangle, a region where many ships and planes have simply disappeared. Here he built a device that could trigger earthquakes and volcanic eruptions around the world. After Magneto abandoned the island, the X-Men used it as an alternative base.



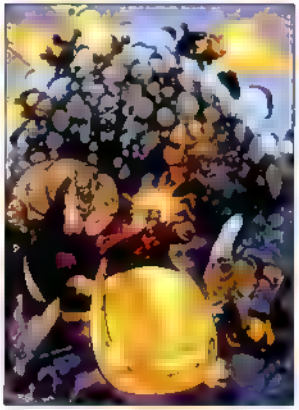
The fall of Avalon

[illegible]

BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS

EARLY IN HIS WAR against humanity, Magneto organized a small band of mutants to go into combat at his side. Since the world had branded him a criminal, Magneto defiantly named his team of accomplices "The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants." The most subservient of the group was the Toad, named both for his grotesque appearance and his superhuman leaping ability. There was also Mastermind, who could mentally create utterly convincing illusions. Lastly, there was Quicksilver, who could move at superhuman speed, and his sister, the Scarlet Witch, who could alter probability at will. Neither Magneto nor the two siblings knew at this time that he was actually their father by his estranged wife Magda.

Making himself a leader at last, the Toad organized a short-lived Brotherhood of his own, including the Blob and Pyro, a woman named Phantasia, who could disrupt machines and super powers, and even the reptilian Saturon.



A NEW TEAM
Mystique organized the most recent version of the Brotherhood which included Toad, the Blob, Pyro, Mimic, and Pyst. At one point this team even kidnapped Professor X to help battle a sentient version of Cerebro, which was terrorizing mutants and humans.

Toad

Blob

Mimic

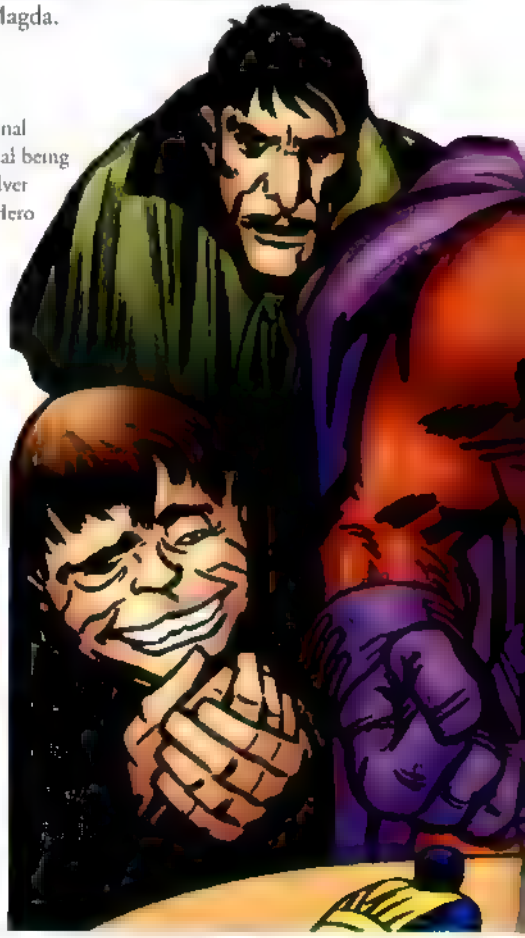
MASTERMIND
Also known as Jason Wyngarde, this former carnival mentalist can psionically alter his own even to disguise his own appearance. He was believed to be dead, but a woman claiming to be his daughter operates as the new Mastermind.

BROTHERHOOD'S LEGACY

Time and again, the Brotherhood clashed with the original X-Men, until Magneto was captured by an extraterrestrial being known as the Stranger. Tired of Magneto's war, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch soon joined the Avengers Super Hero team. Magneto later reorganized the Brotherhood three more times, adding new members such as the Blob, Unus, and Lorelei, before abandoning the concept entirely. Subsequently, the mutant terrorist Mystique formed her own Brotherhood, which she recently reactivated. Ironically, the Toad, who now bitterly hates his former master, stole Magneto's idea and also formed his own Brotherhood, but could not hold it together for long.

TOAD
Born in England as Mortimer Toynbee, created as a freak, the cold-blooded, toad-like mutant was patronizingly developed by Magneto who contemptuously treated it as a lackey until the toad finally turned against him.

FREEDOM FORCE
Believing the group had become too dangerous to act as mutant terrorists, Mystique made a daring offer: the Brotherhood would operate as government agents, exchanging for immunity from prosecution. Thus, Mystique's Brotherhood became a certain force, which worked as X-Men on behalf of federal authorities. Freedom Force collapsed after an ill-fated Middle East mission.



Mystique's team

After Magneto's last Brotherhood collapsed, Mystique carried on its legacy by forming her own Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Among its members were her close friend Destiny, a blind mutant who could foretell the future; Avalanche, who generates small earthquakes; Pyro, who mentally controls flame; and the X-Men's pet nemesis, the Blob. They made a notorious public debut when they tried to assassinate Senator Robert Kelly, who sought to take legal action against the Brotherhood.

ON SCREEN

The *X-Men* movie has its own Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, consisting of Magneto, Mystique, Sabretooth, and Toad. The Toad who appears in the movie bears little resemblance to his comic book counterpart. Although he has the bulging toad-like eyes, gone are the medieval costume he wears and the sniveling behavior which typifies his character in the comics. Instead, the movie Toad is a very effective fighter, using his superhuman agility and leaping ability to become a powerful kickboxer. He is also able to climb sheer surfaces, a skill he shows at Westchester train station and inside the Statue of Liberty. Another weapon in his arsenal is his extendible tongue which can shoot out of his mouth in the blink of an eye. He uses it to cover a target in a slimy substance that hardens quickly as Jean Grey finds out, or it can be used to take a firm hold of something. With it, he rips off Cyclops' visor, causing devastation at the train station as Scott's force beams are uncontrollably unleashed. He also uses it to cling on to the Statue of Liberty for dear life as Storm conjures up a mini-hurricane. However, this tongue lifeline becomes the cause of his downfall, as it turns into a conduit for the lightning blast that Storm creates to blast him into the icy waters of New York Harbor.

KA-ZAR

New York City socialite Shanna O'Hara became the jungle adventurer Shanna the She-Devil. Disillusioned by civilization, Shanna moved to the Savage Land, where she married Ka-Zar and bore him a son, Matthew.

THE ICY WASTELAND of Antarctica is the last place one would expect to find a primeval tropical jungle, much less living dinosaurs. Yet it was there that the X-Men discovered the prehistoric wilderness known as the Savage Land and its self-proclaimed guardian, the jungle lord Ka-Zar. The Savage Land was created at the behest of an enigmatic, other-dimensional race known as the Beyonders, who intended it to be a combination zoo and botanical garden. On their instructions, an alien race called the Nuwali collected specimens of Earth's fauna and flora over millions of years for this wildlife refuge. Climate control mechanisms safeguarded the Savage Land's tropical environment from the endless winter surrounding it.

LORD OF THE JUNGLE

Lord Plunder, an English explorer, discovered the Savage Land years ago. Plunder returned there with his young son Kevin, only to be murdered by beings called the Man-Apes. As they were about to seize Kevin, the Man-Apes were attacked by a sabretooth tiger, which became the boy's protector as he grew up. Kevin named the loyal tiger Zabu, and the boy became known in the Savage Land as "Ka-Zar," or "Son of the Tiger." When the X-Men first came to the Savage Land, Ka-Zar had forgotten much of the English language and behaved in an uncivilized manner. Even so, Ka-Zar became their ally, and eventually traveled to England, where he rapidly learned the ways of Western civilization. Ka-Zar later returned to the Savage Land, where he has aided the X-Men on their subsequent visits.

Sauron

On a boyhood trip to Tierra de Fuego, Karl Lykos was attacked and bitten by pterodactyls, winged reptiles that had flown from the Savage Land. Somehow the bites changed Lykos, so that he could drain the life energy from other beings. Without this life energy he could not survive. After draining life force from a mutant, Lykos metamorphosed into a predatory pterodactyl-like creature called Sauron, who now lives in the Savage Land.

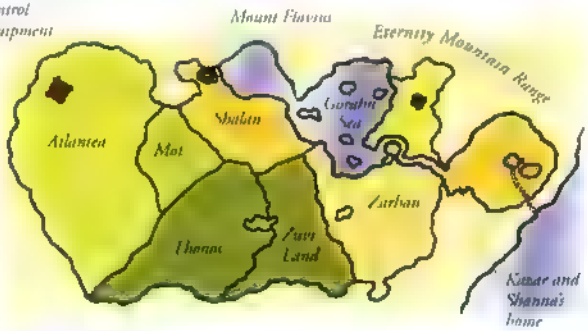
Hair flaps of kin form Sauron's wings

Sauron's wing bones are extension of his arm and finger bones

The Beyonders have one of the most inhospitable places on Earth for the Savage Land.

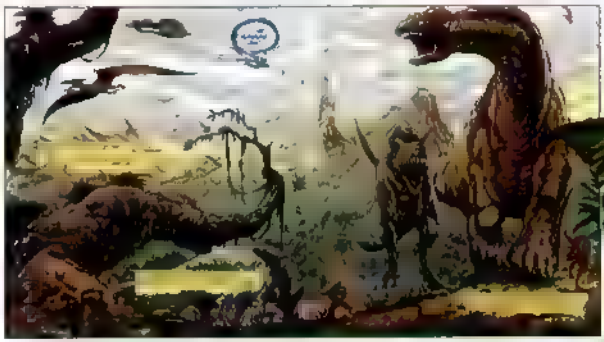
ANTARCTICA
The Savage Land is located on a peninsula that extends from Antarctica toward the southern tip of Chile. A long underground tunnel links the island of Tierra del Fuego with the Savage Land.

Environmental Control Equipment



The Savage Land

The Savage Land is separated from the rest of Antarctica by a ring of volcanoes. Alien devices create a field that refracts light, shielding the Savage Land from outside view; presumably alien machines also create artificial sunlight during the long Antarctic winter. The people of ancient Atlantis used this alien climate-control machinery to create Pangea, a much larger tropical paradise next to the Savage Land.



Prehistoric zoo

Dinosaurs still thrive in the Savage Land. The alien Nuwali have gathered specimens of plant and animal life from the beginning of the Mesozoic Era, the Age of Dinosaurs, to the end of the Pleistocene, the "Ice Age." Creatures from different eras inhabit different areas of the Savage Land. Dinosaurs roam the tropical interior, while woolly mammoths range along its border with Antarctica.

The people of the Savage Land

Ka-Zar may be called the Lord of the Savage Land, but he makes no claim to rule its peoples. There are humans, such as the Sun People, who worship the sun god Garokk, the Fall People, led by the female chieftain Nereel, and the less civilized Swamp Men. Radiation-mutated members of the Nhu Gar race into strange, winged creatures, and there are also the Man Apes, who resemble Neanderthal cavemen. Millenia ago, Atlantean scientists conducted genetic experiments on Man Apes, creating the animal-like humanoid races that inhabit nearby Pangea. Since the X-Men first visited the Savage Land, its existence has become publicly known. Recognizing Ka-Zar as its representative, the United Nations has declared this paradise off limits to conquest and to commercial exploitation.

Zabu, the sabretooth tiger

The Savage Land mutates

Magneto genetically altered some of the Savage Land natives, endowing them with superhuman powers. People who are mutated after their birth are called mutates. Led by Magneto, Zaladane, or the mutant genius Brainchild, the Savage Land Mutates have repeatedly fought the X-Men on their trips to the Savage Land. The mutates include the froglike Amphibious, the four-armed Barbarus, Lupo, who mentally controls wolves, and Vertigo, who psionically disorientates her victims.

ZALADANE
In the 15th century, a British sailor made his way to the Savage Land after the sinking of his ship. Here he imbibed a potion that he thought would grant him immortality. And so it did, but at the price of transforming him into a living tonelike double of Garokk, a sun god worshipped in the Savage Land. Garokk's high priestess is Zaladane, a sorceress who has made repeated efforts to conquer the entire Savage Land. She claims to be an emigre from the outside world, and has even dared to confront Magneto himself.

JUGGERNAUT

From the first day they met, Cain Marko was Charles' enemy. Even when they were boys, Marko was [illegible] strength to bully his stepbrother.

THE SAGA of the Juggernaut began thousands of years ago, when eight mystical entities from other dimensions made a wager to determine which was the most powerful. Each of them decided to endow a human being with their tremendous power. These Exemplars, as the transformed humans came to be known, would plunge the Earth into war on behalf of their masters. The mystical being whose Exemplar triumphed would win the age-old contest. Many years later, when Charles Xavier was a small boy, his mother Sharon married Dr. Kurt Marko, her late husband's colleague. As soon as he moved into the Xavier mansion, Marko's son Cain began bullying the younger Charles. Cain envied and resented Charles for his intelligence, his athletic prowess, and his emerging telepathic powers. Later, while serving in the army in Korea, the two brothers discovered a temple dedicated to Cyttorak, one of the eight mystical entities. Here Cain was transformed into the Exemplar known as Juggernaut, only to be buried alive as the cave collapsed around him.

Cain Xavier [illegible] Cain picks up the Ruby of Cyttorak

The Ruby of Cyttorak

While they were soldiers in Korea, Cain deserted under fire, and Charles followed to bring him back. Inside a cave, Cain found the long-hidden temple of Cyttorak. Marko seized a ruby from the lap of an idol and read the inscription on it, "Whosoever touches this gem shall possess the power of the Crimson Bands of Cyttorak. Henceforth, you who read these words shall become forevermore a human juggernaut." As Xavier watched in horror, the ruby transformed Marko into the monstrous Juggernaut.

EVIL STEPBROTHER

But Juggernaut did not die. Years later he returned to make his first attempt to kill his stepbrother and the X-Men who defended him. Not being a mutant himself, deriving his power from the magic of Cyttorak instead, Cain possesses seemingly unlimited physical strength and is nearly invulnerable to injury, even without the protective force fields he can create around himself. Once Juggernaut starts moving, nothing seems able to stop him. His only weak spot is his mind, so he wears a "psionic helmet," constructed from a mystical metal, to protect himself from telepathic attack. Although he remains one of the X-Men's greatest enemies, Juggernaut sometimes finds himself on the side of good. Indeed, he has even defied Cyttorak and thwarted the other seven Exemplars' efforts to take control of the world.

ACHILLES' HEEL

When Juggernaut first encountered the X-Men, he easily broke through the many defenses they had erected around Xavier's mansion. Nor could the X-Men themselves do anything to stop his advance. Their only hope lay in exposing Juggernaut to Professor X's mental bolts. Finally, with the help of another Super Hero, the Human Torch, the X-Men succeeded in tearing off the psionic helmet that protected Juggernaut's mind.

Unstoppable Juggernaut

Once Juggernaut begins walking in any direction, virtually no known force can halt his advance. Not only have Cyttorak's magic energies made him almost indestructible, but Juggernaut can also surround himself with an impenetrable force field. And with his enormous strength, he can smash through any obstacle in his path, even under a hail of bullets!

Black Tom Cassidy

Juggernaut's only friend is his frequent partner in crime, the criminal known as Black Tom Cassidy. A notorious international terrorist, Black Tom is also the longtime rival and enemy of his cousin Sean Cassidy, the Banshee. A mutant like his law-abiding cousin, Black Tom can shoot blasts of intense heat and concussive force from his hands.

Black Tom rivalry with his cousin Sean dates back many years. Tom was the heir to the fortune and estate of Cassidy Keep in Ireland. However he wagered both on a throw of the dice and thereby lost them to Sean. Later, the two were rivals for the love of Maeve Rourke, but, once again, Tom lost out to his younger cousin.

BLACK TOM CASSIDY

Absolute power

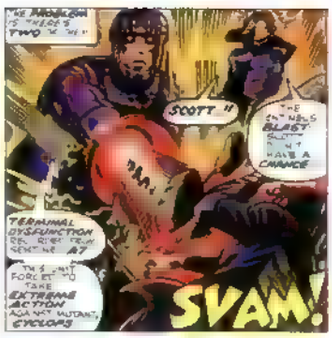
Through his mystical ruby, Cyttorak has endowed Juggernaut with immense power. There is no known limit to Juggernaut's colossal strength, exceeding even Colossus' ability to lift 100 tons. He has survived being buried beneath thousands of tons of rock and being entombed in cement.

Sustained by his mystical energies, Juggernaut does not need to eat drink, or even breathe. Imagine in size he stands 6ft 8in tall and weighs nearly 900lb.

THE SENTINELS

The world first learned of the Sentinels when Bolivar Trask [illegible] them on television, offering to let Trask's [illegible] and [illegible] them during the [illegible]

DR. BOLIVAR TRASK feared that mutants would someday rule the human race. That fear led him to create the Sentinels, immense robots that would hunt down mutants. Ironically, Trask himself was the father of two mutants: Tanya, who had the ability to travel through time, and became known as Sanctity; and Larry, who had the ability to see into the future. Dr. Trask created an amulet that suppressed Larry's mutant power. Trask first created a prototype, the Master Mold, and then the Mark I Sentinels. But the Sentinels' logic led them to decide that they could best protect humanity by taking control of it. So they rebelled against Trask and made him their prisoner. Trask realized, to his horror, that it was he who had created the real threat to humanity. He therefore sacrificed his life by triggering an explosion that destroyed the Master Mold and the Sentinels. Blaming the X-Men for his father's death, Larry built the Mark II Sentinels. These could analyze any threat and determine how best to counter it, making them nearly invincible. But when his amulet was removed, the Sentinels identified Larry as a mutant and turned on him. He was killed during the battle in which the Mark II Sentinels were also destroyed.



Neck articulation

Shoulder joint

Lower arm protective plate

Hand

Finger articulation motion group

Forearm

Knee joint and [illegible] shin pack

Foot

Bastion's arm [illegible] gun [illegible] gun laser

UNSTOPPABLE

Once the Sentinel technology had been invented, it could not be suppressed. The U.S. government took possession of the Trasks' designs and commissioned industrialist Sebastian Shaw to construct a new line of Sentinels for federal use. There have also been several other versions of the Sentinels, including those that resembled the X-Men and human beings with Sentinel technology implanted in them—cyborgs called "Prime Sentinels."

Prime Sentinels

Bastion outfitted certain Prime Sentinels in uniforms that made them resemble the original Sentinel robots. Cybernetic implants enabled them to fly and fire energy blasts from their hands. And [illegible] humans who became Prime Sentinels were programmed to eliminate the mutant menace.

Human Sentinels

Sentinels perceived human beings as weak, irrational, and fallible. The Sentinel Bastion "solved" the problem of humanity by converting humans into cyborgs, half human, half machine, whom he called the Prime Sentinels. Dressed as normal humans, they could move through the world undetected and unsuspected.

High-efficiency turbine

NIMROD
Created in the alternate reality of the "Days of Future Past," Nimrod was the most advanced Sentinel of its time. By pursuing the mutant Rachel Summers, Nimrod traveled through time to the X-Men's present where he became a vigilante combating criminals. Nimrod ultimately evolved into the humanlike form of Bastion, the creator of the Prime Sentinels.

MIMIC

CALVIN RANKIN, also known as Mimic, was the first nonmutant to join the X-Men. When he was young, Rankin accidentally inhaled an unknown chemical in his father's laboratory, which gave him the ability to copy the features and abilities of any other person. At that time, Rankin could only retain those features and abilities as long as he remained within a certain distance of the person he had "mimicked." At first, Mimic was the X-Men's enemy, but he later forced them into accepting him as a member until Xavier expelled him for his arrogance. Since then, Mimic has sometimes been a hero and sometimes a villain: recently he found refuge with the British Super Hero team Excalibur, but then left them to join the new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants.

Mimic copies Angel's wings, Cyclops' eye beams, and the Beast's large hands and feet

A one-man team
When Mimic met the original X-Men, he gained all of their powers. He grew wings just like Angel, mimicked Beast's large hands and feet, and wore a ruby quartz visor to contain the eye beams he copied from Cyclops. He has also copied Colossus' organic metal body and even Nightcrawler's prehensile tail. Later, Mimic's powers increased so that he could retain the abilities he copied from mutants, even when he was far away from them.

CHANGELING

THE FIRST OF THE X-MEN to die in action, the Changeling is an enigma to this day. He had the mutant ability to alter his physical appearance, costume, and voice to imitate any other human being, but his true identity remains unknown. He was once the second-in-command of Factor Three, an organization of mutants bent on world conquest. Ultimately, though, he aided the X-Men in defeating the conspiracy's leader, the Mutant Master, who turned out to be an extraterrestrial being. But then the Changeling discovered that he was dying. Wishing to atone for the sins of his past, the Changeling sought out Charles Xavier, who had a task for the penitent mutant.

CHANGELING

Xavier's double
Xavier asked the Changeling to impersonate him while he secretly prepared a defense against alien invaders called the Z'nox. As Xavier, the Changeling died heroically, helping the X-Men stop their enemy Grotesk from destroying the planet. Wearing another man's face, the Changeling had found redemption at last.

POLARIS

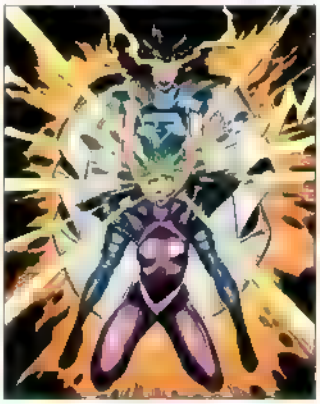
WHEN LORNA DANE was growing up, she was careful to hide the only sign that made her different from other girls: she dyed her green hair brown. But her life changed shortly after she first met Iceman. The mutant criminal Mesmero captured Lorna and placed her in a machine that activated her latent mutant power to control magnetic forces. She then met Magneto, who claimed she was his daughter. However, Iceman discovered that Lorna's real parents had died in a plane crash when she was a baby. Once he told Lorna this, she teamed up with the X-Men against Mesmero. As for the "Magneto" she had met, he later turned out to be an android constructed by the criminal Starr Saxon, who had hoped to trick Lorna into serving him.

A Team Player

Lorna was attracted to Iceman, but she fell in love with Alex Summers, alias Havok. She and Alex worked with the X-Men for a while, but they eventually left to pursue graduate studies in geophysics. Later, Lorna, now using the code name Polaris, and Havok returned to become full-time members of the X-Men. Then Lorna briefly fell under the mental possession of the evil entity, Malice. The Savage Land sorceress Zaladane, who claimed to be Lorna's sister, broke Malice's hold over her, but stole Polaris' magnetic powers. After regaining these powers, Polaris served alongside Havok in the second version of the mutant team X-Factor.

Villains' pawn

Time and again the X-Men enemies have tried to seize control of Lorna and her mutant magnetic powers. First, there was Mesmero's attempt to convince her that she was Magneto's daughter. Later, Eric the Red, an agent of the alien Shi'ar, brainwashed her into attacking the X-Men. He gave her the Shi'ar costume and the code name "Polaris." After she regained her free will, she decided to keep both.



Warring sisters

The next villain to take control of Lorna's mind was Malice, a member of the Marauders who exists as a disembodied mind. Zaladane, inadvertently freed Lorna from Malice while stealing her alleged sister's powers. But after Zaladane was seemingly slain by Magneto, Lorna regained her stolen powers.

HAVOK

SEPARATED AFTER their parents' disappearance, Scott Summers and his brother Alex grew up apart. Unlike Scott, Alex showed no sign of being a mutant until he was captured by Ahmet Abdol, an Egyptian mutant who was worshipped as the Living Pharaoh. Alex proved to have the ability to discharge waves of force and heat, turning the air in its path into superheated plasma. The Pharaoh discovered that Alex gained this power by absorbing cosmic rays. He imprisoned Alex in a coffinlike device that cut him off from the ambient cosmic radiation. As a consequence, the Pharaoh began absorbing the energy instead, transforming himself into the Living Monolith. Alex broke free, causing the Monolith to revert to helpless human form, but they were both captured by the Sentinels. The robots' master, Larry Trask, gave Alex the code name Havok and imprisoned him in a cell with another mutant, Lorna Dane. And so Havok met the woman with whom he fell in love.

Living Monolith
Alex's power somehow limited the abilities of the Living Pharaoh. By imprisoning Alex and blocking cosmic rays from reaching his body, the Pharaoh could attain the full extent of his own powers

Chest display shows how much cosmic energy Havok has absorbed

ICEMAN

BIG [illegible]

MARVEL WOMAN

[illegible] FACTOR

BLOODSTORM

MUTANT X
Havok was transported to a parallel Earth where he joined the Six [illegible] of mutants like the X-Men, but with a difference. They include Marvel Woman (Madelyne Pryor), The Blue Hank McCoy, Bloodstorm (Ororo Munroe), The Fallen (Warren Worthington III) and Iceman (Bobby Drake)

While trying to resump X-Factor, Alex was seemingly killed in an explosion. He was however drawn into the reality of a parallel Earth where he became Mutant X leader of the Six

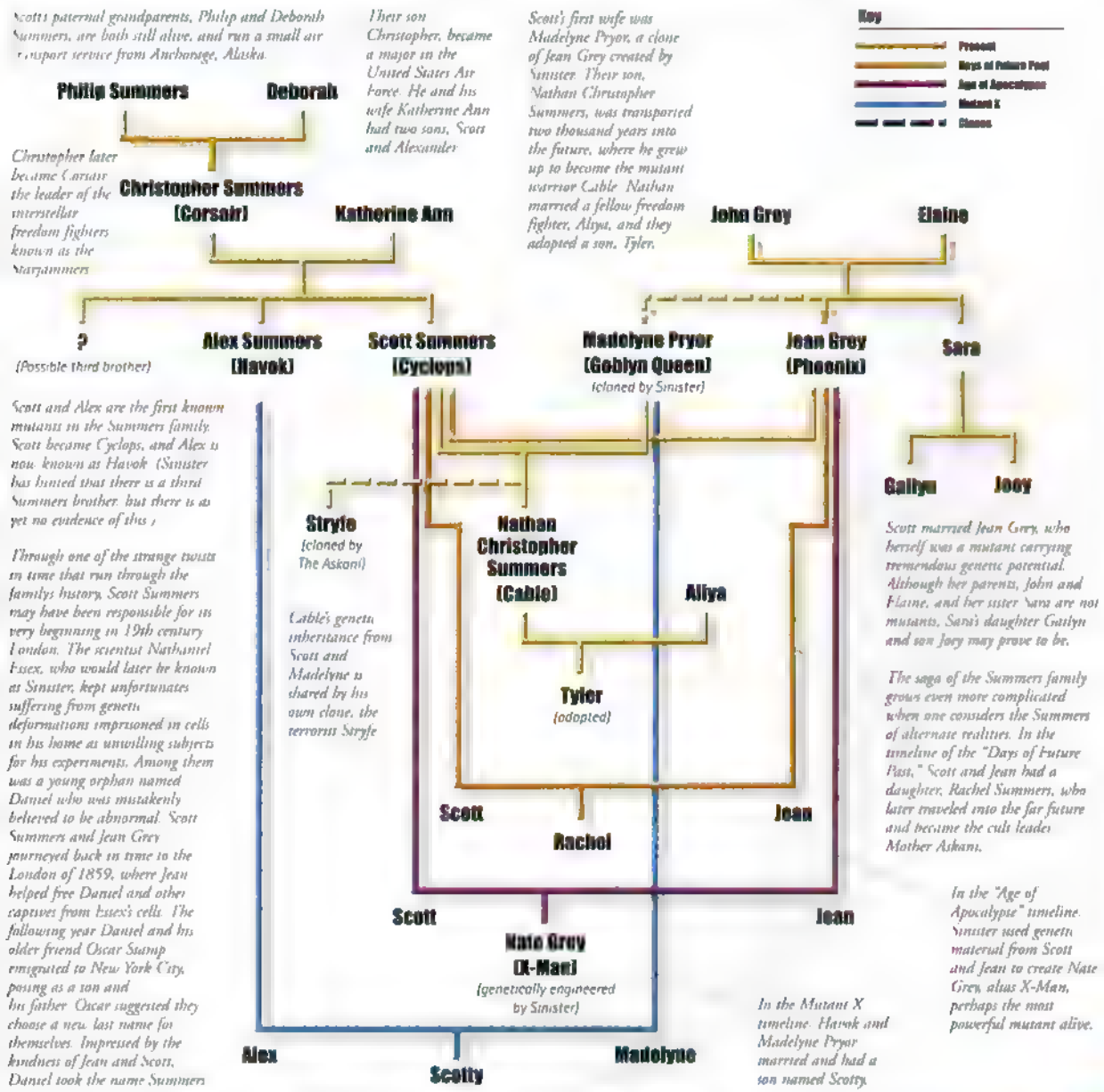
STUDY BREAK

Havok and Lorna worked with the X-Men for a time, but moved to the Rio Diablo mountains of Arizona to do research work for their graduate studies in geophysics. Eventually they returned to their lives as [illegible] adventurers, first as fully fledged members of the X-Men and then in the government's [illegible] version of X-Factor

[illegible] of plasma at a doomed Sentinel robot

SUMMERS FAMILY TREE

BOTH ACCORDING to the science of the Victorian biologist Sinister in the past and to the prophecies of the Askani Sisterhood in the far future, the family of Scott Summers, better known as Cyclops, is destined for greatness. Within the Summers' bloodline lies the genetic potential for extraordinary mutant powers. But more importantly, the Summers family consists of a long line of heroes.



Scott's paternal grandparents, Philip and Deborah Summers, are both still alive, and run a small air transport service from Anchorage, Alaska.

Their son Christopher, became a major in the United States Air Force. He and his wife Katherine Ann had two sons, Scott and Alexander

Christopher later became Corsair the leader of the interstellar freedom fighters known as the Starjammers

Scott and Alex are the first known mutants in the Summers family. Scott became Cyclops, and Alex is now known as Havok. (Sinister has hinted that there is a third Summers brother, but there is as yet no evidence of this.)

Through one of the strange twists in time that run through the family's history, Scott Summers may have been responsible for its very beginning in 19th century London. The scientist Nathaniel Essex, who would later be known as Sinister, kept unfortunates suffering from genetic deformations imprisoned in cells in his home as unwilling subjects for his experiments. Among them was a young orphan named Daniel who was mistakenly believed to be abnormal. Scott Summers and Jean Grey journeyed back in time to the London of 1859, where Jean helped free Daniel and other captives from Essex's cells. The following year Daniel and his older friend Oscar Stump emigrated to New York City, posing as a son and his father. Oscar suggested they choose a new last name for themselves. Impressed by the kindness of Jean and Scott, Daniel took the name Summers

Scott's first wife was Madelyne Pryor, a clone of Jean Grey created by Sinister. Their son, Nathan Christopher Summers, was transported two thousand years into the future, where he grew up to become the mutant warrior Cable. Nathan married a fellow freedom fighter, Aliya, and they adopted a son, Tyler.

Cable's genetic inheritance from Scott and Madelyne is shared by his own clone, the terrorist Stryfe

Scott married Jean Grey, who herself was a mutant carrying tremendous genetic potential. Although her parents, John and Elaine, and her sister Sara are not mutants, Sara's daughter Gailyn and son Joey may prove to be.

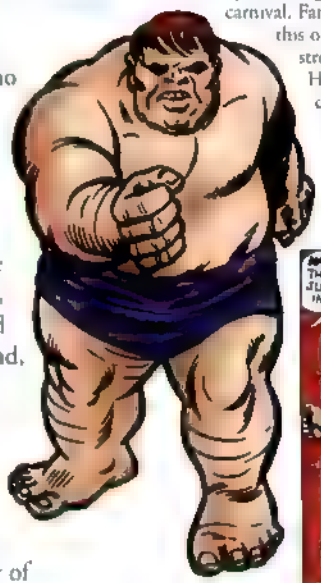
The saga of the Summers family grows even more complicated when one considers the Summers of alternate realities. In the timeline of the "Days of Future Past," Scott and Jean had a daughter, Rachel Summers, who later traveled into the far future and became the cult leader Mother Askani.

In the "Age of Apocalypse" timeline, Sinister used genetic material from Scott and Jean to create Nate Grey, alias X-Man, perhaps the most powerful mutant alive.

In the Mutant X timeline, Havok and Madelyne Pryor married and had a son named Scotty.

OTHER '60s VILLAINS

BY FORMING THE ORIGINAL X-MEN, one of Charles Xavier's goals was to organize a team of young mutants who would oppose mutants who did not believe in peaceful coexistence with "normal" human beings, but used their powers to menace society. These mutants fanned the flames of human bigotry toward the entire mutant race of *Homo superior*. Magneto and his band of criminals, known as the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, were the most notorious of these criminals, but there were others as well, including the Vanisher, the Blob, Unus the Untouchable, and Mesmero. Xavier rescued Scott Summers from another mutant called the Living Diamond, before recruiting Cyclops into the X-Men. Then there was the Maha Yogi, a millennia-old mutant who had used his psionic powers to impersonate the magician Merlin, and the Living Pharaoh, who drew on cosmic rays to become the colossal mutant known as the Living Monolith. Others were not mutants but members of entirely nonhuman races. Grotesk, for example, was the survivor of an extinct race of humanoid subterraneans.



Blob

When he first met the X-Men, Fred J. Dukes was performing as "the Blob" in a traveling carnival. Far from being soft and flabby, this obese mutant is superhumanly strong and nearly invulnerable. His huge body can even absorb cannon fire without harm. The Blob can make himself almost immovable at will, by exerting enough gravitational force to bind himself to the ground.

ALIENS AND HUMANS

There were also extraterrestrial adversaries for the X-Men to battle. These included Lucifer and the all-powerful Stranger, who kidnapped Magento and the Toad and took them to his alien museum as mutant exhibits. There was also the octopuslike Mutant Master and the alien race of Z'nox. Finally, some human beings could prove as malevolent as the evil mutants: the crimelord Count Luchino Nefaria, Sauron, a man transformed into a pterodactyl; El Tigre, who gained the Mayan god Kukulcan's powers; and even the Locust, who used genetic engineering to create colossal insects.

Grotesk was once known as Prince Gor-Tak

Grotesk

Grotesk was once the prince of a race of subterranean beings. After a nuclear test wiped out his people and distorted his mind and body, Grotesk vowed revenge on all surface dwellers. Using a stolen device, he started to set off earthquakes. When Changeling, impersonating Charles Xavier, tried to stop him, Grotesk overloaded the machine. It exploded, killing Changeling, and the defeated Grotesk returned to his kingdom.

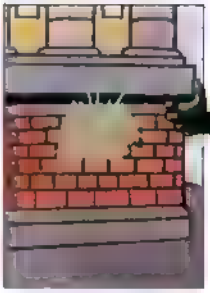
Unus is a wrestler of [illegible] and [illegible] utilized [illegible]

Unus the Untouchable

The costumed wrestler Unus the Untouchable used his mutant ability to surround himself with an impenetrable force field to become a virtually unstoppable thief. The X-Men first encountered Unus when Beast was involved in a wrestling match against him. Even with Hank's acrobatic ability, he could not harm the untouchable mutant. Instead, he had to watch as his blows were simply deflected by Unus.

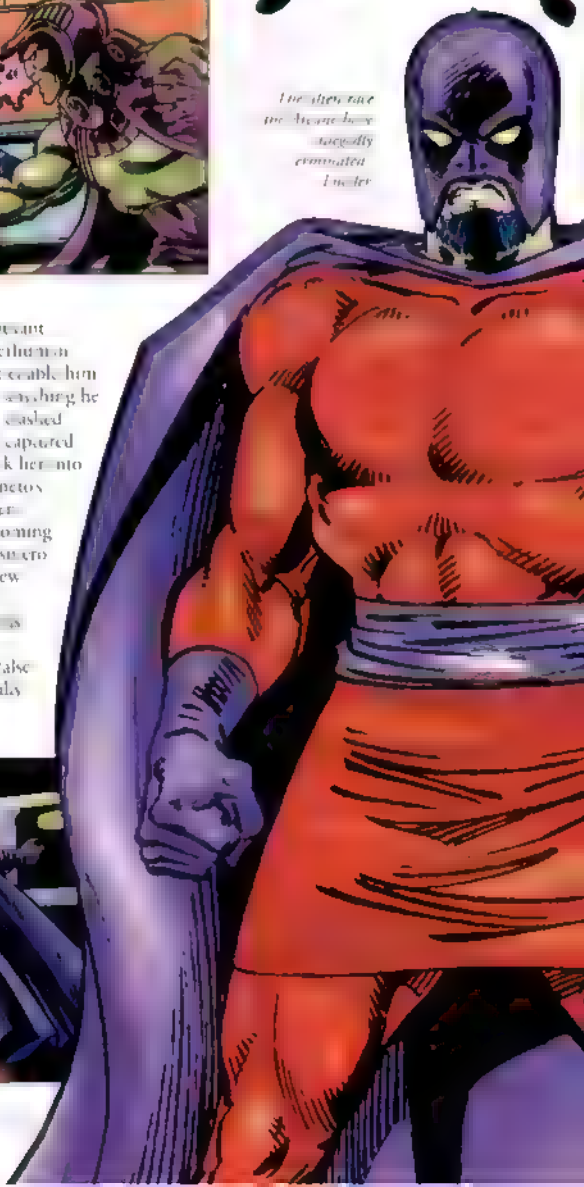
Vanisher

[illegible] helpless against the [illegible] mutant who could [illegible] from one place to [illegible] Outlaxing in [illegible] wave the Vanisher's [illegible] defense [illegible] the Pentagon and [illegible] on the White House [illegible] to demand [illegible] Only Professor X was able to stop him by wiping out the Vanisher's memory of its own powers



Mesmero once briefly performed in [illegible] New York City

The alien race the Arcane have allegedly terminated Lucifer



Mesmero

The green-skinned mutant Mesmero wields superhuman hypnotic abilities that enable him to force his victims to do anything he commands. When he first clashed with the X-Men, Mesmero captured Lorna Dane and helped trick her into believing that she was Magneto's daughter. Mesmero once even mesmerized the X-Men into becoming performers in his traveling circus. Mesmero needs only establish eye contact for a few seconds to put most people under his hypnotic control; those with strong wills can resist for only a few moments. Mesmero can give his victims a new, false set of memories and even radically alter their personalities.

Lucifer

The adversary whom the X-Men knew as Lucifer was actually the advance agent for an impending invasion by his alien race, the Arcane. Lucifer crippled Charles Xavier when they first clashed. Years later, when he sought to enslave Earth, Lucifer finally met defeat at the hands of the X-Men.

DAVE COCKRUM
TOM PALMER

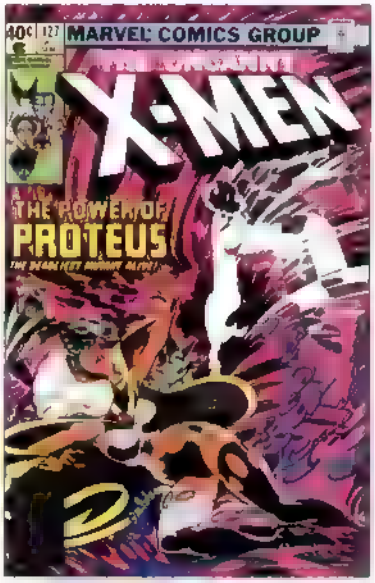
X SEVENTIES

THE X-MEN IN THE 1970s

ALTHOUGH THE ROY THOMAS NEAL ADAMS TOM PALMER issues of *X-Men* have long been regarded as classics, they came too late to save the series. Based on the sales of the issues before Adams' arrival, *X-Men* was canceled with issue 66 in 1970. However, Marvel was determined to keep the X-Men alive. Only nine months after the cancellation, the *X-Men* comic returned, reprinting stories from the past. The X-Men also continued to appear as "guest stars" in other Marvel series. Meanwhile, Marvel tinkered with the X-Men concept. In *Marvel Team-Up* issue 4, for example, the X-Men went into action in everyday clothing. The Beast was spun off into his own series in *Amazing Adventures*, in which he was given a radical makeover, becoming furry and more animalistic.

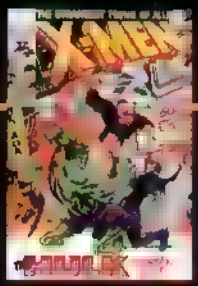
Roy Thomas came up with the idea of a new international team of X-Men. On Thomas' suggestion, writer Len Wein and artist Herb Trimpe, following a design by John Romita, Sr., introduced Wolverine in *Incredible Hulk* issue 180, intending him as a potential future X-Man. Wein and artist Dave Cockrum then created the new X-Men, who made their debut in 1975 in *Giant-Size X-Men* issue 1, intended as the first of a series of double-size comics. That, however, was not to be. With the very next story, *X-Men* returned to the standard format, picking up the original series numbering with issue 92 (the reprints had ended with 91). More significantly, Wein turned over the scripting of the *X-Men* to a new Marvel writer, Chris Claremont. Thus began Claremont's 17-year run as writer of the *X-Men*, a record yet to be matched. The Claremont-Cockrum team quickly drew notice from discerning comic book readers of the time, introducing strong science fiction elements and intriguing character development. After two years Cockrum left to be succeeded by a newly rising talent, John Byrne, who had been working with Claremont on the martial arts series *Iron Fist*. Together Claremont, Byrne, and inker Terry Austin created a thrillingly dramatic, graphically brilliant, and highly literate run of issues that are still landmarks of the genre today. And the series fittingly changed its name to *The Uncanny X-Men*.

X-Men #101 (April 1977)
(New X-Men against Magneto)
(Cover art by Dave Cockrum)



The Uncanny X-Men #1[illegible] (November 1979)
Storm against Proteus
(Cover art by John Byrne and Terry Austin)

1970



X-Men #66 (March 1970)
Final issue of original series
(Cover art by Marie Severin)

1972

Amazing Adventures #11 (March 1972)
Appearance of Fancy Beast
(Cover art by Tom Sutton)

1975

X-Men #94 (Aug. 1975)
First issue of new X-Men and first script written by Chris Claremont
(Cover art by Gil Kane)

X-Men #94
[illegible]
First appearance of Sunfire
Cover art by [illegible] Heck
and [illegible]

Giant Size X-Men #1 [illegible]
First appearance of new X-Men
Cover art by Gil Kane

1976

X-Men #96
(April 1976)
Sentinels against new X-Men
(Cover art by Dave Cockrum)

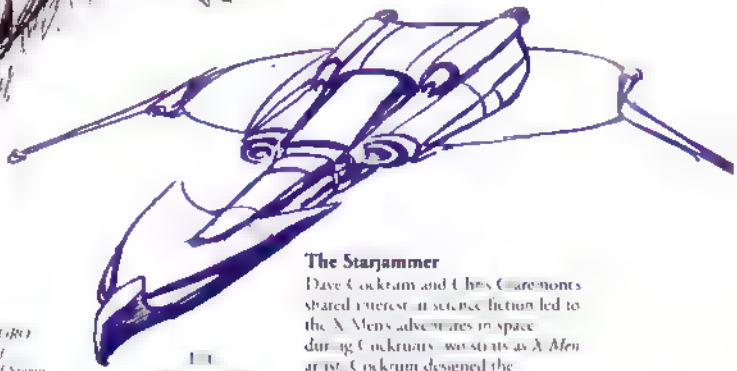
1978

X-Men #114 (Oct. 1978)
"The Day the X-Men Died"
(Cover art by John Byrne and Terry Austin)

1979

Uncanny X-Men #137
(January 1979)
"Psi-War"
(Cover art by John Byrne and Terry Austin)

VARIATIONS ON PHOENIX
Here are some ketches that Dave Cockrum and [illegible] Phoenix [illegible]. The [illegible] tock [illegible] otherwise [illegible] but the final design [illegible] complicity.



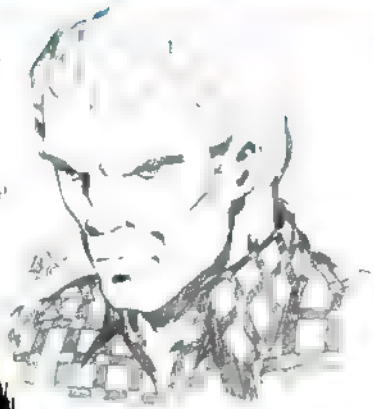
Nightcrawler
Writer Len Wein intended Nightcrawler to be a grim melancholy character brooding over his demonic appearance. Chris Claremont, though, sided with artist Dave Cockrum in having Nightcrawler not only accept his mutant form but revel in his acrobatic prowess.

KURT AND ORGRO
This is a sketch of Nightcrawler and Storm that their [illegible] Dave Cockrum did as a gift for Chris Claremont.

The Starjammer
Dave Cockrum and Chris Claremont's shared interest in science fiction led to the X-Men's adventures in space during Cockrum's two stints as *X-Men* artist. Cockrum designed the Starjammers, a band of space pirates. This is his design for their starship, the Starjammer.

CHANGING FACES—1970s

Face beneath the mask
Oddly, Wolverine was not shown unmasked in his initial appearances. Moreover, his cocreator Len Wein intended Wolverine to be a teenager! Speculating on what Wolverine looked like beneath his mask, John Byrne drew this sketch.



WOLVERINE—UNMASKED
[illegible]

POLAR'S BY BYRNE
[illegible]

POLAR'S BY MARC SAVAGE

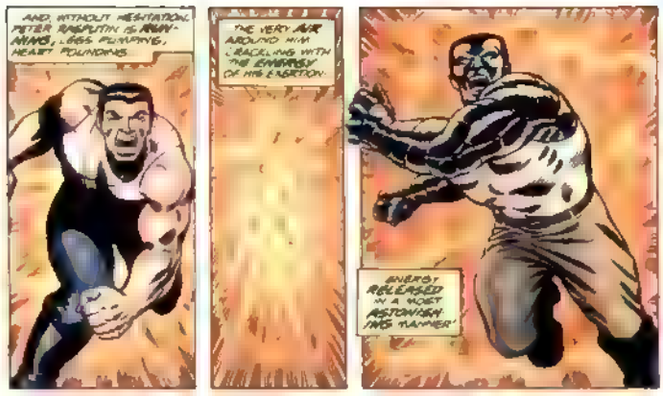
AS THE 1970S BEGAN, the X-Men discovered that Charles Xavier was still alive; he had been in seclusion preparing to combat an alien race, the Z-nox. Only an issue after the X-Men bested these invaders, the original *X-Men* series came to an end. The X-Men remained together, though most of their adventures during this period would not be recounted until decades later, in *X-Men: The Hidden Years*.

In *Giant-Size X-Men* issue 1, published in 1975, there came perhaps the most important turning point in X-Men history. Except for Cyclops, who escaped, all of Xavier's X-Men were held prisoner by the largest mutant they have ever encountered: Krakoa, the Living Island. Xavier traveled the world to recruit a new team of X-Men to go to his students' rescue: Banshee from Ireland, Sunfire from Japan, Thunderbird from the American Southwest, and Wolverine from Canada. The newcomers succeeded in freeing the original team. But except for Cyclops, Xavier's longtime students left the school to seek their own destinies. This new lineup was very different from the old one: they had different national and racial backgrounds, some were adults, and several did not fit easily into the team. Sunfire soon quit, the impetuous Thunderbird perished on their second mission, and Wolverine proved capable of going into a berserker rage at the least provocation. Following a battle in space against the Sentinels, Jean Grey seemed to be transformed, gaining vastly increased powers and calling herself Phoenix. Soon after, Lilandra, an alien princess, sought Xavier's help against her brother, the ruler of the Shi'ar galaxy. In response, the X-Men journeyed far into space, and Phoenix used her immense powers to save the entire universe from annihilation.

In combat with Magneto at his Antarctic base, Phoenix became separated from the other X-Men. Thinking them dead, she informed Xavier, who left Earth and became Lilandra's consort in her throneworld. Phoenix journeyed through Europe, where she began falling under the mental influence of the mutant Mastermind. However, the other X-Men had survived and took a long route home through the Savage Land, Japan (where Wolverine fell in love with a woman named Mariko), and Canada, where they fought against Alpha Flight. Phoenix and the X-Men were soon reunited in Scotland, all unaware of the tragedy that Mastermind would soon bring about.

COLOSSUS

A GIANT OF A MAN, the Russian Piotr Nikolaievitch Rasputin would deserve the name "Colossus" even if he were an ordinary human being. However Peter, as he is known in English, is a mutant who can transform his body into an organic substance that resembles living steel, gaining superhuman strength and near-invulnerability in the process. Despite his extraordinary powers, Peter Rasputin preferred to live on a collective farm in Siberia with his parents and his beloved little sister, Illyana. It was here that Professor Xavier met with him and persuaded him to join his new international team of X-Men. Young and idealistic, Colossus remained a loyal member of the X-Men for many years, finding romance with his teammate Kitty Pryde, alias Shadowcat, and a new vocation as a gifted amateur painter.

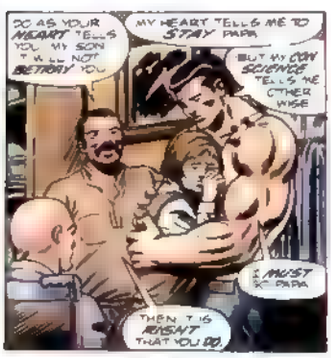


Metal man

At will, Peter Rasputin can convert his body into living steel, making him a near-invulnerable superhuman. He can withstand temperatures of 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and can lift over 100 tons. It is because of this superhuman, his mutated body might begin to heal.

LOSS OF FAITH

However, Colossus's faith in Xavier's dream of peaceful coexistence with humanity was shattered when Illyana succumbed to the legacy Virus, a lethal genetic disease that strikes down mutants. Angry and frustrated, Colossus turned to Xavier's enemy Magneto and joined his band of mutant Acolytes for a time. But Colossus could not accept their ruthless methods and fled to refuge with his friends Kitty and Nightcrawler in the British mutant team Excalibur. Before all three of them finally returned to the X-Men, where they were [illegible]



[illegible]

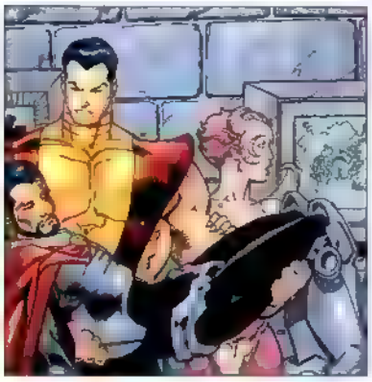
[illegible]

CONAGLEMAN

Peter's [illegible] brother Mikhail became an enemy when [illegible] was murdered. Peter's revenge [illegible] Legion. [illegible] only [illegible] respect [illegible] to the [illegible]

THE ACOLYTES

Fascinated by the way of life [illegible] Colossus became one of Magneto's Acolytes [illegible] Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. [illegible] Pyro [illegible]



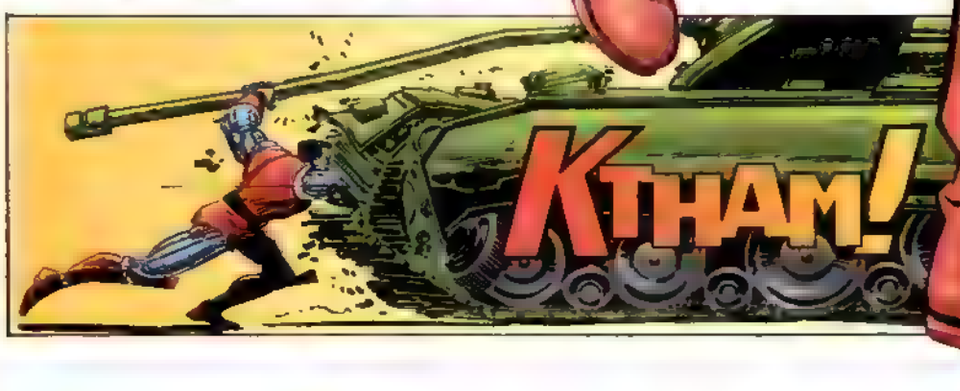
Colossus' brother, Mikhail

Romantic ties

Colossus's first love was his fellow X-Man Kitty Pryde. They were both quite young and innocent, but she eventually broke off with him. Years later, Colossus hoped to renew their relationship, but was shocked to find Kitty had [illegible] her Excalibur teammate Peter Wisdom. Colossus became attracted to Excalibur's Meggan, but he allowed her to marry Captain Britain. After his return to friendship with a new X-Man, Moira, Colossus has grown closer to his colleague Rogue.

Superstrength

In his armored form, Colossus is by far the strongest of the X-Men physically. Since joining the X-Men, he has reached his physical peak and he can now lift weights of over 100 tons. [illegible] enough to engage even juggernaut in hand-to-hand combat.



[illegible]

After his return to the X-Men, [illegible] adopted a European-style uniform.

NIGHTCRAWLER

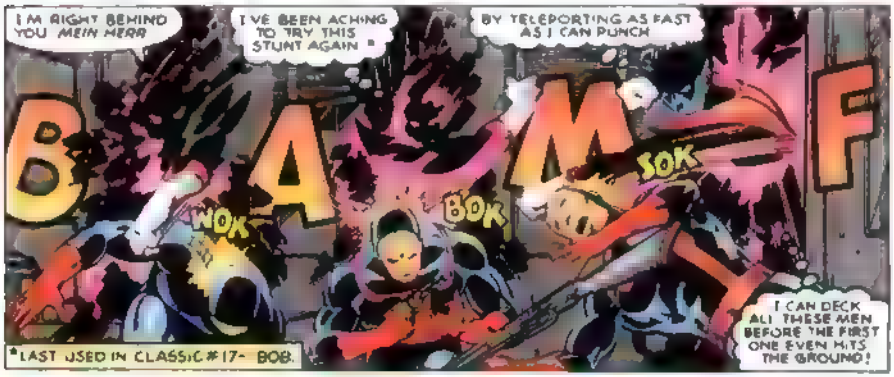
APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE in a puff of smoke, at first Nightcrawler looks like a demon from a medieval image of hell. His yellow eyes seem to glow, his smile has fanged teeth, he is covered with dark blue fur, and he has a long, prehensile tail that ends in a point. But, in fact, Nightcrawler is Kurt Wagner, a German-born mutant with the ability to teleport himself from place to place at will. Far from being a devil, Kurt is deeply religious and sees himself as a swashbuckling romantic hero, performing incredible acrobatic feats of daring. Only recently has Kurt learned that he is the son of the mutant shapeshifter Mystique and a German aristocrat. When Bavarian villagers discovered Mystique's true mutant physical appearance and that of her newborn, they tried to kill them both. To save herself, Mystique used her powers to disguise herself as a villager and ruthlessly threw her baby into a waterfall. Miraculously, little Kurt survived and was found by the gypsy sorceress Margali Szardos, who raised him in a traveling circus. There Kurt won applause as an acrobat and high-wire performer from audiences who assumed that he was an ordinary human wearing a costume.

SAVED BY PROFESSOR X

Kurt's world came crashing down when he fought and accidentally killed his foster brother Stefan, who had gone insane. Terrified villagers would have driven a stake through Kurt's heart had he not been saved by Charles Xavier, who recruited him into the X-Men. Nightcrawler stayed with the team for years before moving to England to help found the Super Heroes team Excalibur. When that group disbanded, Nightcrawler returned to America and to the X-Men.

Acrobatics

[illegible]



Fighting

Being able to teleport enables Nightcrawler to appear out of nowhere, strike his opponent a mighty blow before his adversary can hit back, and then reappear and attack from a different direction. These three Hellfire Club guards literally never knew what hit them!

Just in time!

Thinking him a demon from hell, a Bavarian mob was about to drive a stake through Kurt Wagner's heart when Charles Xavier arrived on the scene. Paralyzing his assailants with his mental powers, Xavier saved Kurt's life and invited him to join the X-Men.

Quick change

Shortly after joining the X-Men, Nightcrawler's is given an image inducer, a portable device that creates surroundings, seemingly altering it with a hologram-like image. Using the image inducer, Nightcrawler could make himself look like a normal human being when he went out in public. It was not long thereafter before Kurt gave up using the device, having decided not to be ashamed of or hide his actual physical appearance.

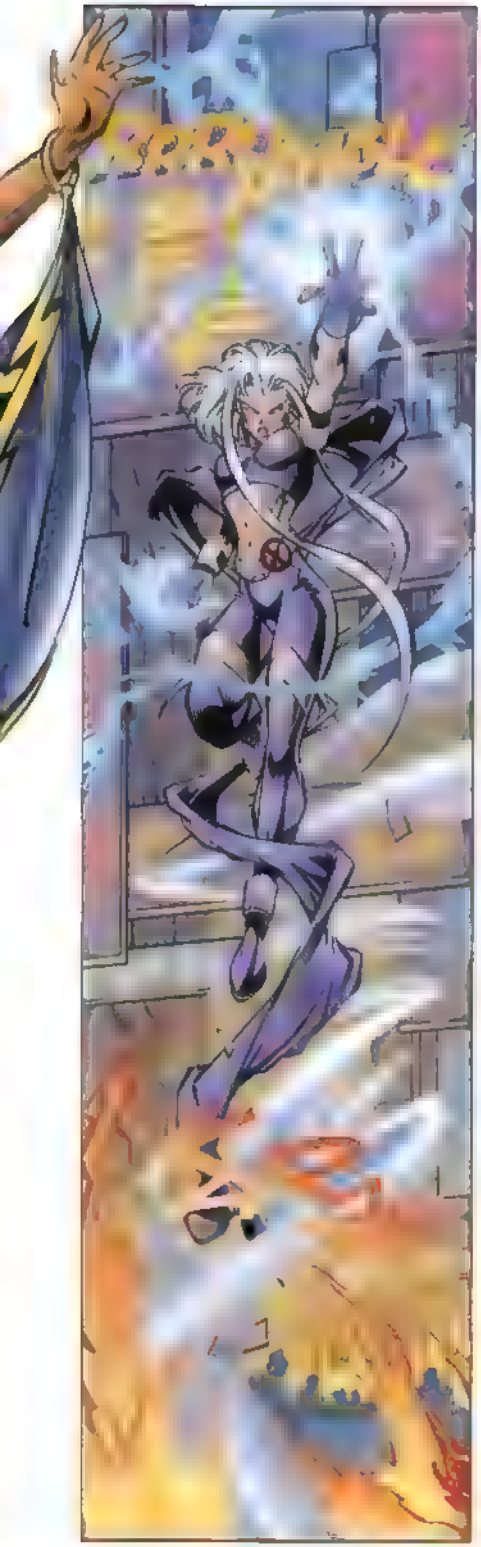
STORM

ORPHAN AND GODDESS, thief and crusader, African and American—Ororo Munroe, better known as Storm, has filled many roles during her young life. She has the mutant ability to control the weather around her. She can create rain, hail, snow, fog, and even lightning at will. Storm can also summon up winds strong enough to carry her through the air in flight. Storm's mother, N'Dare was the princess of a tribe in Kenya, and was descended from an ancient line of African priestesses, all of whom had white hair and blue eyes. N'Dare married the American photojournalist David Munroe and moved with him to Cairo, Egypt. Five years later, a terrorist bomb destroyed their home, killing Ororo's parents and leaving her trapped beneath the rubble. Orphaned at the age of five and a half, Ororo wandered the streets until she met the master thief Achmed el-Gibar. He taught her to become the best pickpocket and thief in Cairo, but when Ororo was twelve, she left the city and traveled by foot to her mother's ancestral home, the Serengeti Plains.

To America

There in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, she utilized her newly emerged mutant power over the weather to help local tribes, who worshipped her as a goddess. Ororo remained there until Charles Xavier invited her to join the second generation of X-Men. Xavier gave her the code name Storm, and to begin with, she was an innocent character, unfamiliar with Western ways. In later years, her personality went through a more combative phase, and she adopted a Mohawk haircut and leather outfit. Today, she has returned to her long hair and flowing cape. During her years with the X-Men, Storm has grown into a formidable combatant. She has served as the team's leader and remains one of the X-Men's most valuable members to this day.

STORM IN THE 1990S



The fury of Storm

Storm's powers over the weather are linked to her emotions. If she becomes annoyed, storm clouds gather. When she is angry, then she is fearsome indeed, summoning winds to carry her high up into the sky, causing thunder to resound around her and hurling lightning bolts from her hands as if she were a goddess of weather. Ordinarily, though, Storm is a serene personality, finding peace in the natural world around her.

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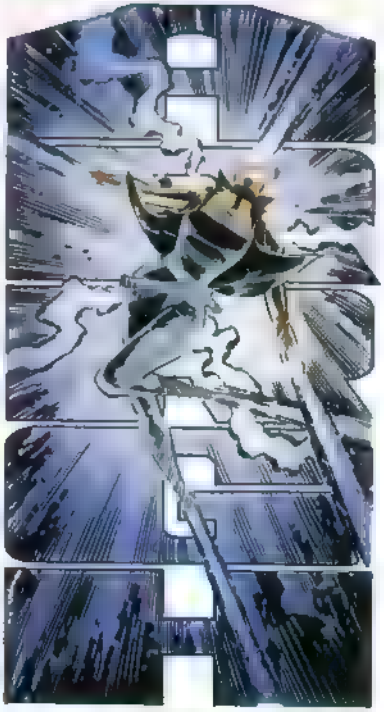

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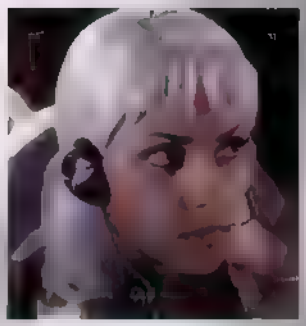


ON SCREEN

In the *X-Men* movie, Storm has her familiar white hair and the power to control the weather that gives her her name. While in the comics Storm's eyes are often drawn as if she had no pupils in her eyes, in the movie her eyes actually turn white when she concentrates on utilizing her powers. As in the comics, Storm's ability to summon up powerful winds and bolts of lightning makes her an awe-inspiring opponent.

Storm is first seen in action saving Wolverine and Rogue from an attack by Sabretooth. However, the winds she summons are not enough to stop Wolverine's mobile home from exploding. But later we witness Storm's full fury when she battles Sabretooth again at Westchester train station, and later still when she "shocks" Toad off the Statue of Liberty. But her powers are not only used for violent means – she summons up a fog bank to hide the X-Jet as it flies low over New York Harbor. When she is not in action, one of her roles at the Xavier Mansion is to act as a teacher to the younger mutants who live there.

WOLVERINE

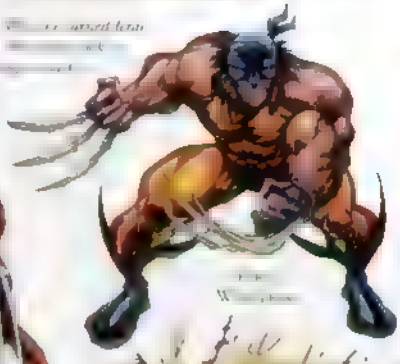
HE'S THE BEST there is at what he does, it's said. And what he does is fight. Like the animal that is his namesake, Wolverine may be small in size but he is ferocious in battle. Yet as fearsome as he is to others, Wolverine's greatest enemy is himself. It has taken him years to master his animalistic impulses to kill, and should his control slip, he could easily give way to berserk madness. Wolverine's principal weapons are his claws which are actually bones that lie within his forearms. At will he can thrust the claws forth through the back of his hands or retract them. In the past, scientists bonded molecules of the iron alloy adamantium to the claws, making them unbreakable. He has a mutant ability to heal from injuries at exceptional speed, making him virtually unkillable, and has superhumanly acute senses of smell and hearing. Logan's past is a mystery even to himself. CIA scientists have tampered with his memory. His healing power also greatly retards his aging, no one knows how old he is. But this is what we do know.

WILD MAN

He calls himself simply Logan, and he was born in Canada. He has fought in wars as a soldier. Decades ago he was a special operative for the CIA who ran the Weapon X project that both gave him his adamantium and drove him mad. He was an animalistic savage when he was found by James and Heather Hudson, who helped him to regain his sanity. Logan worked with James in the Canadian government's Department H and became known as Weapon X, alias Wolverine. James Hudson intended for Logan to lead Canada's new Super Hero team, Alpha Flight. But Logan felt guilty over his secret love for Heather. Hence, when Charles Xavier invited him to join the X-Men, Logan accepted immediately, and he has remained one of the team's central figures ever since.

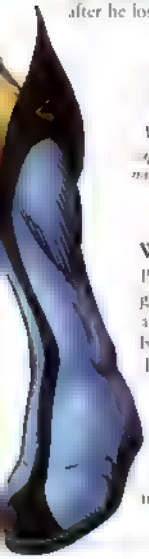
Stripped of adamantium

Wolverine had come to rely on the adamantium bonded to his bones. But then the X-Men's archfoe Magneto used his magnetic power to strip the adamantium molecules from his skeleton, rendering it vulnerable once more. Many months would pass before another enemy, Apocalypse, restored the adamantium to Wolverine's skeleton before making him his slave.



Changing face

Wolverine has gone through many changes in his appearance, ranging from his Department H outfit to his reversion back into a feral state just after he lost his adamantium.



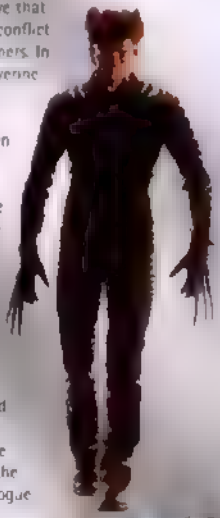
Wolverine's fast healing

Perhaps Wolverine's greatest asset as a fighter is his mutant healing ability. Although he does feel pain, he recovers from injuries with amazing speed. Gunshot wounds in normal times cannot stop him. Within hours he can fully recover from an injury that would kill a normal man.

ON SCREEN

In the *X-Men* movie, Wolverine's past is an even greater mystery than it is in the comics. He remembers nothing about his life before the adamantium was grafted onto his skeleton, and the only clues he has to his past are the dog tags he wears. Even though the other X-Men call him Logan, his dreams are haunted by the code name that appears on these dog tags: "Wolverine."

He has the same healing power and the same gruff personality that he has in the comics. He also tries to woo Jean Grey, a move that brings him into conflict with Scott Summers. In the comics, Wolverine was working for the Canadian government when he joined the X-Men. In the *X-Men* movie, he is wandering the country, trying to learn about his past. Instead of being sought out by Xavier, as he is in the comics, Logan becomes involved with the X-Men through a chance encounter with the young mutant Rogue.



BANSHEE

SEAN CASSIDY takes his name, the Banshee, from a female spirit of Irish folklore, who wails to warn a family that one of its members is about to die. The X-Men's Banshee also wails. Using his ability he can create sonic vibrations that are powerful enough to shatter steel or propel himself through the air in flight. Like the banshee of myth, Sean Cassidy is familiar with tragic events. In his youth he had nothing but good fortune. He was heir to a magnificent Irish castle Cassidy Keep, and had a successful career in the international law enforcement organization, Interpol. Most importantly, he had married the beautiful Maeve Rourke, despite competition from his disreputable cousin, Black Tom. While Sean was away on a lengthy secret mission, Maeve discovered she was pregnant and gave birth to their daughter, Theresa. Then, during a visit to relatives in Northern Ireland, Maeve was killed by a terrorist bomb. Black Tom secretly rescued Theresa, planning to raise her himself.

Sean's sonic vibrations are powerful enough to propel him through the air

Both Sides of the Law

Overwhelmed with grief, but ignorant of his daughter's existence, Sean left Interpol and later became a police detective in New York City. Unable to find peace of mind, he drifted into crime and was enslaved by Factor Three. The X-Men freed Banshee from Factor Three, and together they wrecked the organization's plans for world domination. Sean gratefully accepted Charles Xavier's offer of membership in the X-Men. It was in their ranks that Sean met and fell in love with the X-Men's ally, Moira MacTaggert, and was finally united with Theresa, who is now the teenage mutant heroine, Siryn. Today, Sean has left the X-Men to teach the young mutants of Generation X at Xavier's new school in Snow Valley, Massachusetts.

In Interpol

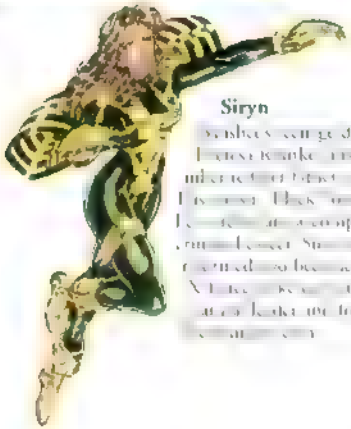
For years, Sean Cassidy served as a leading Interpol operative. But grief over his wife's sudden death turned Sean's life upside down, and he became the complete opposite of a law enforcer, a law breaker. As if in punishment for turning to a life of crime, he was captured by the group known as Factor Three, a conspiracy of mutants bent on world conquest.

Freed by Xavier

Banshee first met the X-Men as their enemy. He had been forced to serve Factor Three, who had strapped an explosive device to his head to ensure his obedience. By disarming this device in his headband, Charles Xavier freed Sean Cassidy from a life of crime and allowed Banshee to join forces with the rest of the X-Men instead.

Banshee joins the X-Men

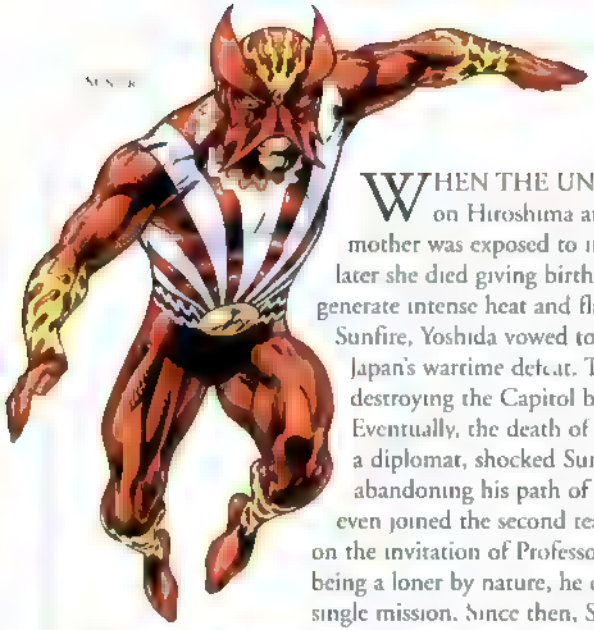
Banshee loses his powers



Siryn

Reluctant partners

SUNFIRE

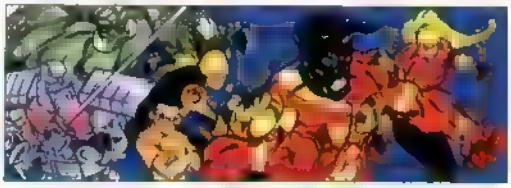


Sunfire displays his [illegible] pride in a costume that adapts the Japanese [illegible]

WHEN THE UNITED STATES dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima at the close of World War II, Shiro Yoshida's mother was exposed to intense radiation that altered her genes. Years later she died giving birth to her son Shiro, a mutant who could generate intense heat and flames—and even fly. Naming himself Sunfire, Yoshida vowed to take revenge on the United States for Japan's wartime defeat. The X-Men successfully stopped him from destroying the Capitol building. Eventually, the death of Shiro's father, a diplomat, shocked Sunfire into abandoning his path of revenge. He even joined the second team of X-Men on the invitation of Professor X, but, being a loner by nature, he quit after a single mission. Since then, Sunfire has primarily used his powers on missions for the Japanese government, though he still aids the X-Men on occasion.

Shiro Yoshida is related to [illegible] crime family [illegible]

Silver Samurai Baymax Sunfire Honey Lemon



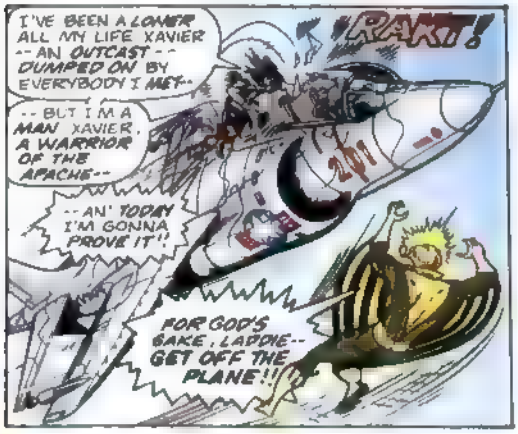
Hiro Takachiho Go Tomago

Big Hero 6

Recently, Sunfire joined Japan's first Super Hero team, known in English as Big Hero 6. Members include the Silver Samurai, the robot Baymax, boy genius Hiro Takachiho, and secret agents Go Tomago and Honey Lemon.

THUNDERBIRD

BORN ON AN APACHE RESERVATION in Arizona, John Proudstar was a Native American mutant endowed with superhuman strength and endurance. After serving as a soldier in the United States Army, Proudstar was recruited by Xavier into the X-Men and was given the name "Thunderbird." His fellow X-Men were shocked when Thunderbird was killed in action on only his second mission with the team. Proudstar's younger brother James took the name Thunderbird and at first blamed the X-Men for John's death. Since then, James has become Warpath, a member of X-Force, and yet another mutant has adopted the name Thunderbird and joined the X-Men.

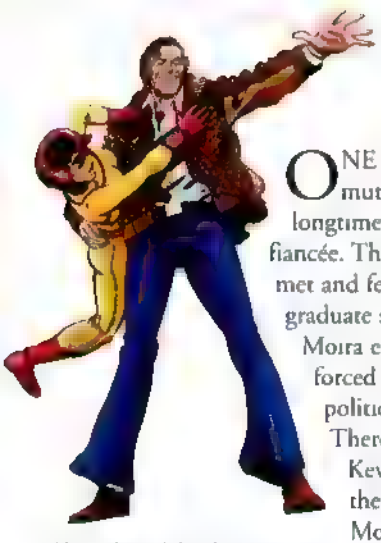


A hero's death

John Proudstar wanted to become a warrior like his Apache ancestors. Determined to stop the X-Men's enemy, Count Nefaria, from escaping, Thunderbird pounded a hole in his aircraft, causing it to explode. He died a hero's death.

THUNDERBIRD

MOIRA MACTAGGERT



Moira reluctantly kept her mutant son, Kevin, alias Proteus, confined for years on Muir Island. Once he escaped, Proteus' powers quickly incinerated his own body, and he existed as psychic energy, taking over and burning out a succession of bodies, including that of Moira's estranged husband Joe, before Colossus finally halted his rampage.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S leading authorities on genetic mutation, Dr. Moira MacTaggert is Charles Xavier's longtime colleague and confidante and was also once his fiancée. The daughter of Lord Kinross of Scotland, Moira met and fell in love with Xavier when they were both graduate students at Oxford University. However, Moira ended their engagement when she was forced into marriage with the late politician Joseph MacTaggert. Thereafter she had a son, named Kevin, a mutant menace with the ability to alter reality at will. Moira also raised the orphaned mutant girl Rahne Sinclair, now known as Wolfsbane. The two have grown so close that Rahne now considers Moira to be a second mother to her.

Moira Kinross MacTaggert won the Nobel Prize for her work in genetics.

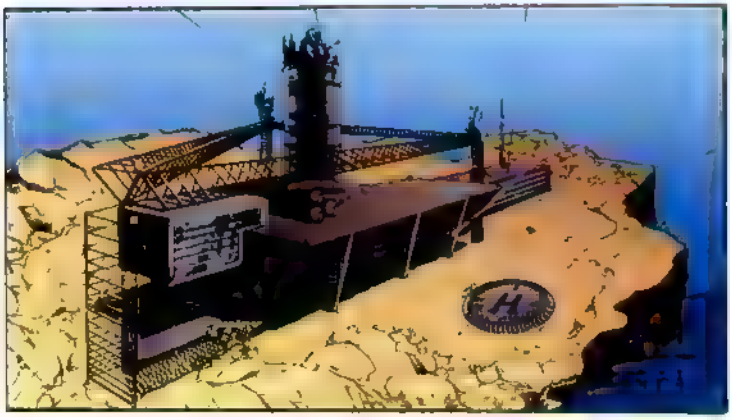
MUIR ISLAND

Today, Dr. MacTaggert operates the high-tech Mutant Research Centre on Muir Island off the northern coast of Cape Wrath, Scotland. This is the largest and most advanced facility of its kind that is owned and operated by a private individual. Here Moira conducts genetic research and confines mutants that she and Professor X consider to be dangerous. She is a staunch friend and ally of Charles Xavier and also of the X-Men, New Mutants, and the members of Excalibur, who have used Muir Island as their base of operations. Recently she has devoted herself to finding a cure for the deadly Legacy Virus, which was engineered by Stryfe; ironically, she is the only nonmutant to have become infected with this disease.

Storage stack

Communications

Mutant genome sequencing project building

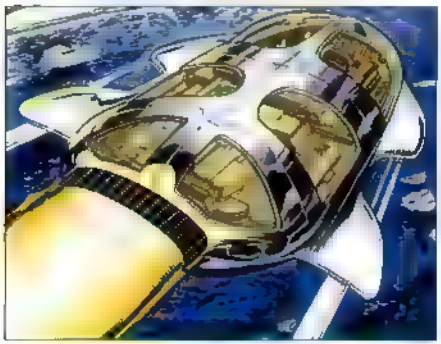


LABORATORY STACK
•High-energy transfer
•Mutant pathology
•Archive cross-reference
•Large computer center
•Mutant constituent analysis
•Hospital

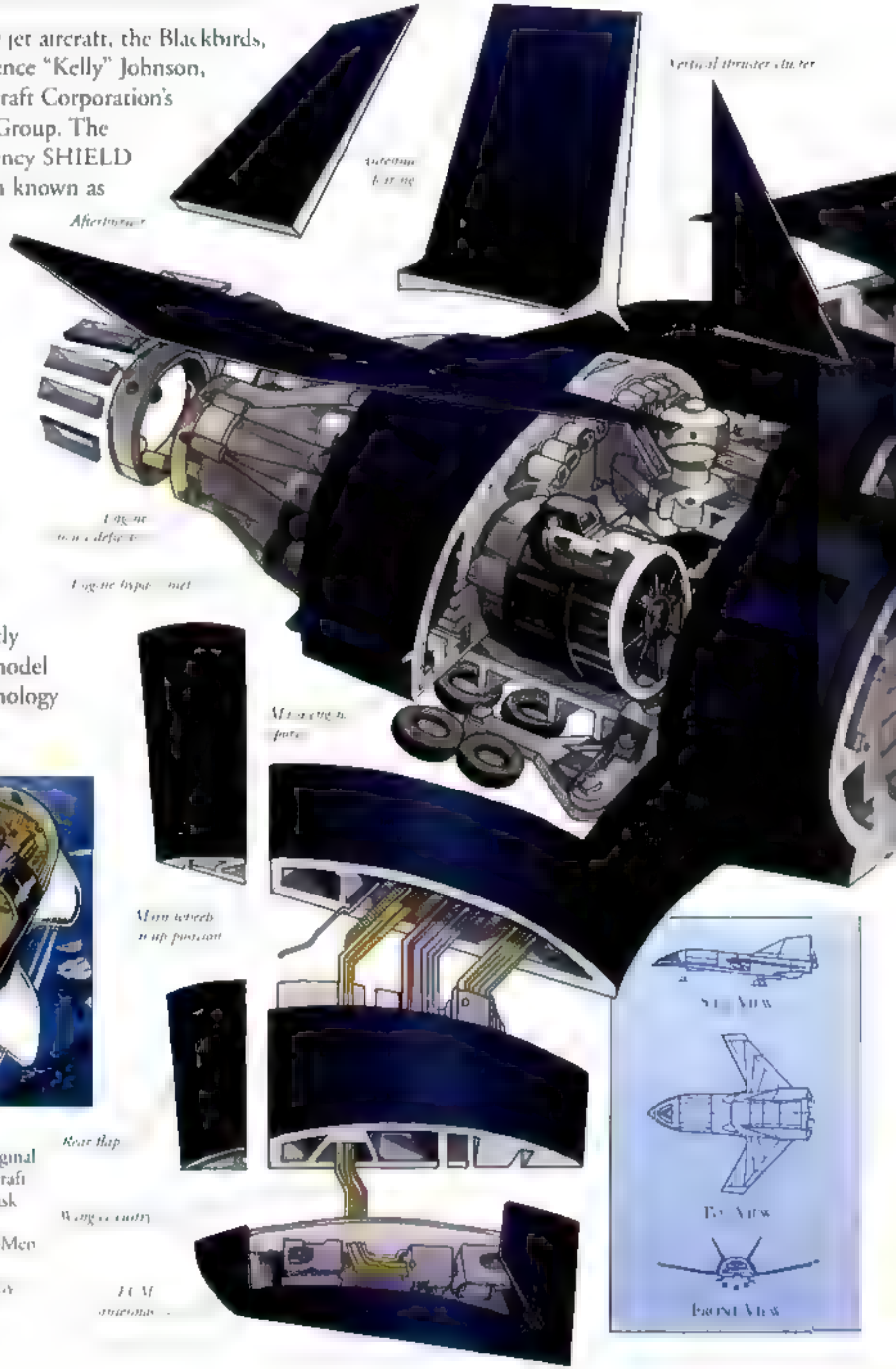
QUARANTINE
When she learned that she had been infected with the Legacy Virus, Moira sealed herself in a quarantine chamber so that she could study the development of the disease under controlled conditions. Her experiments have proved fruitless, and she has since left the chamber.

THE X-MEN AIRCRAFT

THE X-MEN'S ADVANCED jet aircraft, the Blackbirds, are based on designs by Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, former head of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's Advanced Development Projects Group. The international law enforcement agency SHIELD built a number of these craft, then known as the Lockheed SHIELD (RS-150) Blackbird, but all were destroyed except for the one acquired by Charles Xavier. The Blackbird is a transonic, long-distance airplane, used in the X-Men's high-altitude reconnaissance missions. It is a VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) craft and can fly at speeds of up to Mach 4.2 at high altitudes. A mission-specific accessory pod can easily be added for unusual or preplanned operations. The X-Men have greatly enhanced the original Lockheed model by incorporating alien Shi'ar technology and innovations devised by Forge.



Sentinel Skycraft
After their battle with the Sentinels, the original X-Men captured some highly advanced aircraft designed by the Sentinels' creator, Larry Trask. Originally used for transporting mutant prisoners, the craft was converted by the X-Men and used for supersonic flight across vast distances. One of the ships was unfortunately lost when it crashed in the Savage Land.



X-Copter
Blackbird Blue
ECM Station

THE STARJAMMERS

EVER SINCE Christopher Summers was a boy, he loved the adventures of the swashbuckling heroes of old novels and movies. Even as a major in the United States Air Force, he chose the call sign "Corsair" in homage to them. Chosen for the space program, he hoped he would soon travel into space. He got his wish, but not in the way he would have wanted. Following a visit to his parents in Anchorage, Alaska, Major Summers was flying his wife, Katherine Ann, and his sons, Scott and Alex, down the Pacific coast in his private plane when they were attacked by a Shi'ar starship. Scott and Alex parachuted to safety, but Major Summers and his wife were teleported aboard the starship and taken back to the Shi'ar throneworld. The Major was imprisoned but escaped only to find Emperor D'Ken attempting to force himself on Katherine. D'Ken murdered Katherine before Summers' eyes and then sentenced him to the mines of the planet Alsibar.

Fighting alongside the X-Men against D'Ken, Corsair was reunited with his son Scott, now called Cyclops.

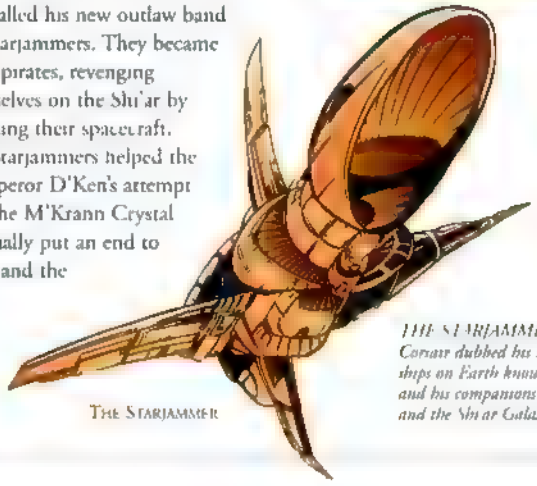
PRISON BREAKOUT

Slowly, Christopher Summers' spirit was broken, until he encountered a female, catlike alien who was being beaten by guards. Outraged, Summers attacked the guards, and two more prisoners, Ch'od and Raza, came to his assistance. Together, they stole a starship and escaped. Summers took the name Corsair and called his new outlaw band the Starjammers. They became space pirates, revenging themselves on the Shi'ar by attacking their spacecraft.

The Starjammers helped the X-Men to stop the Shi'ar Emperor D'Ken's attempt to destroy the universe with the M'Krann Crystal. In gratitude, Lilandra unofficially put an end to the feud between the Empire and the Starjammers. After she was overthrown by Deathbird, Lilandra found refuge with the team until she regained the Shi'ar throne.

Interstellar pirates

The original team of Starjammers included five members. Unable to pronounce the catlike alien's name, Corsair called her Hepzibah; she is a Mephitisoid, a member of a race conquered by the Shi'ar. Ch'od is a Saurid, a reptilian being of vast strength, and Raza is a Shi'ar cyborg and a master swordsman. Their ship's physician is a member of the insectlike Chr'ylite race whom Corsair dubbed "Sikorsky." Later, they were joined by the Earthwoman Carol Danvers, who wields cosmic powers and is known as Binary.



THE STARJAMMER

THE STARJAMMER
Corsair dubbed his interstellar pirate ship the Starjammer after the sailing ships on Earth known as windjammers. Its ultralight drive enables Corsair and his companions to quickly traverse even the vast distance between Earth and the Shi'ar Galaxy.

LILANDRA AND THE SHI'AR

THE SHI'AR are an extraterrestrial race who rule an empire that extends throughout their galaxy. They have physical characteristics in common with both birds and mammals. Although humanoid in appearance, the Shi'ar have feathers instead of hair – they even have vestigial feathers on their arms. The Shi'ar Empire is one of the three great galactic empires in the known universe. The others belong to the militaristic, humanoid Kree, and the shapeshifting, reptilian Skrulls, each of whom is the dominant power in their own galaxy. The planet Earth is of strategic importance to these three rival empires, because it lies at a crossroads for starship travel between their respective galaxies.

Deathbird wings allow her to fly

Deathbird is very strong and can lift up to [illegible]

Lilandra [illegible] Deathbird [illegible] She was exiled from the Shi'ar Empire for regicide

The hair on the head of the Shi'ar is actually made of feathers.

[illegible] resemble [illegible]

The Starjammer is [illegible] by a Shi'ar Apocalypse class flagship

Lilandra Majestrix of the Shi'ar

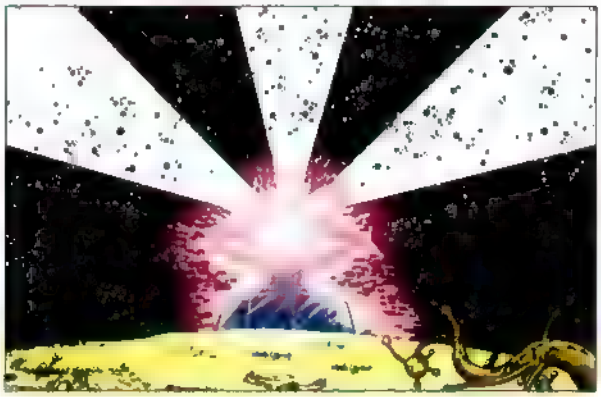
SHI'AR RULER

The ruler of the Shi'ar, known as the Majestor or Majestrix, is based on Chandilar, the imperial throneworld. The current Majestrix is Lilandra Neramani who succeeded to the throne after her brother, D'Ken, nearly destroyed the universe by trying to harness the power of the M'Krann Crystal. She had opposed these plans, and fled to Earth where she met Charles Xavier and enlisted the help of the X-Men. Subsequently, Deathbird, Lilandra's older sister, staged a successful coup driving Lilandra into exile. But Lilandra has since regained the throne and even won a war against the Kree. Today Charles Xavier and Lilandra remain friends, and she continues to be the X-Men's ally.

Lilandra [illegible] from her brother D'Ken [illegible] Xavier [illegible]

THE IMPERIAL GUARD

THE IMPERIAL GUARD is a legion of superpowered champions who protect and defend the Shi'ar galactic empire. Its members are drawn both from the Shi'ar race and from other alien races governed by the Shi'ar. The majority of the Imperial Guard's members are known as Borderers. They assist the governors of conquered planets in enforcing the Shi'ar imperial law. The Imperial Guardsmen pictured here, however, belong to the elite corps that protects the ruler of the Empire, known as the Majestor or Majestrix, and executes his or her orders. The praetor (leader) of this elite corps is Gladiator, the most powerful member of the entire Imperial Guard.



The M'Krann Crystal
The X-Men first met the Imperial Guard on a desolate world in a distant galaxy, where the Shi'ar emperor D'Ken sought to harness the power of the M'Krann Crystal. The Imperial Guard loyally defended their emperor from the invading Earthmen. D'Ken thought he could master the Crystal's energies, but it would have destroyed the universe had Phoenix not stopped it.

AGAINST THE X-MEN

When the X-Men first encountered the Imperial Guard, it was as enemies, since the Guardsmen then served the evil D'Ken Neramani, Majestor of the Shi'ar. However, now that their friend Lilandra rules the Shi'ar, the X-Men and the Imperial Guard have become allies.

Gladiator
The leader of the Imperial Guard, Gladiator is the most powerful known humanoid in the entire Shi'ar galaxy. His strength enables him to lift over 100 tons in Earth gravity. He can fly at speeds equal to those of starships and is virtually invulnerable except to certain wavelengths of radiation. Gladiator can also emit laserlike beams from his eyes to produce intense heat. While other Guardsmen travel in starships, Gladiator can fly unprotected through the vacuum of space for long periods without breathing.

FANG
Highly developed animal senses. Now deceased

WARSTAR
A mechanoid cyborg with superhuman strength

ASTRA
Able to turn intangible at will

SMASHER
Possesses superhuman strength

D'Ken

The duty of the Imperial Guard is to serve the monarch of the Shi'ar, no matter who it may be. The Guardsmen once aided the mad emperor D'Ken against his rebellious sister Lilandra, but when Lilandra succeeded D'Ken as ruler, the Guard switched their loyalty to her.

MANTA

Can see infrared light and can [illegible]

EARTHQUAKE

Can psionically create earthquakes

ELECTRON

Can project powerful bolts of electrical energy

SIBY

Possesses powerful telepathic [illegible]

SCINTILLA

Can shrink to a 20th of her normal size

STARBOLT

Can fire powerful bolts of energy from his hands

FLASHFIRE

Can generate powerful bolts of electrical energy

NIGHTSIDE

Can create total darkness over small areas

NEUTRON

Possesses superhuman strength

SHAPE-SHIFTER

Can change size and shape at [illegible]

[illegible]

Wields a neuro-whip

[illegible]

Can grow to gigantic size

MAGIQUE

A powerful sorceress

[illegible]

Can fire powerful energy bolts from his visor

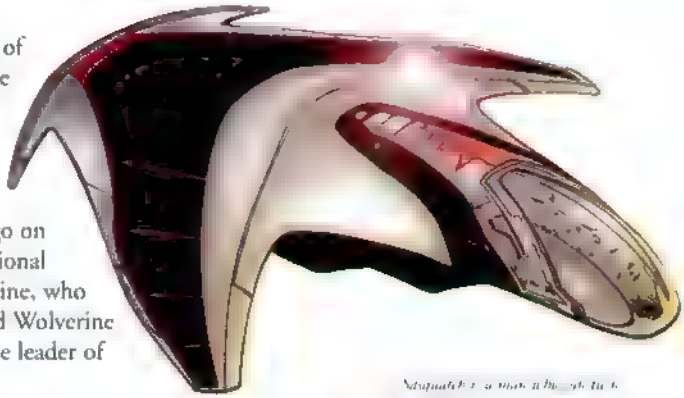
MENTOR

Possesses superhuman intelligence

ALPHA FLIGHT

THE GOVERNMENT of Canada has its own team of costumed Super Heroes, Alpha Flight. Years ago, the prime minister of Canada asked the brilliant engineer and inventor James MacDonald Hudson to aid in creating Department H, a top secret agency within the Ministry of Defense. Hudson decided to organize a team of superhumanly powerful operatives who would go on special missions for Department H. While visiting a national park, Hudson and his wife Heather encountered Wolverine, who had reverted to a crazed, feral state. The Hudsons nursed Wolverine back to sanity, and James planned to make Wolverine the leader of his team, which would be called Alpha Flight. However, Wolverine resigned to join the X-Men, and Hudson reluctantly became the team leader instead.

ALPHA JET
Department H furnishes Alpha Flight with state of the art transport vehicles such as this sleek and sophisticated Alpha Jet



WEAPON ALPHA

Wearing a battlesuit he had invented that enabled him to fly and to fire beams of force, Hudson took on the name Weapon Alpha (he would later be known as Guardian). On one of his first missions, Hudson tried to capture Wolverine and bring him back to Canada. After failing, Hudson tried again months later, along with five other Alpha Flight members. They were Sasquatch, a man who could transform himself into a legendary monster; Shaman, a Native American mystic; Aurora and Northstar, a sister and brother who moved at superspeed; and Snowbird, who could turn into any Arctic animal. Alpha Flight battled the X-Men, but Wolverine escaped. Later, Hudson and Wolverine made peace, and since then the members of Alpha Flight have worked with the X-Men.

Puck is a dwarf with unusual acrobatic talents

Alpha Flight: The Changing Face

[illegible]

Auld Lang Syne

During the short period they served together as Alpha Flight, James Hudson and Wolverine became as close as brothers. However, Wolverine's abrupt resignation from Department H and subsequent joining of the X-Men drove a wedge between the two men. Angry and hurt, Hudson [illegible] as new guardian Weapon Alpha tried to bring Wolverine back by force. [illegible] attempt failed, but the two have since reconciled their differences.

OTHER '70s VILLAINS

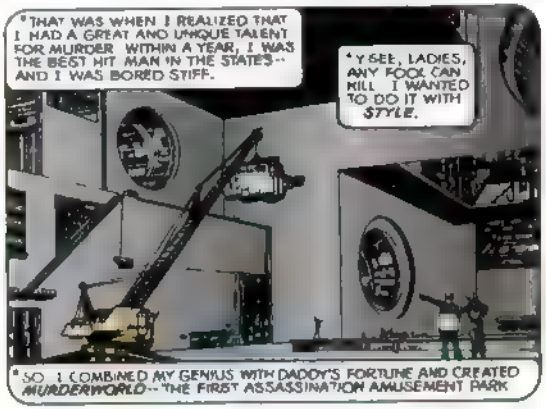
[illegible] PRANKS [illegible]
[illegible] important, or even whether he [illegible] his targets. What matters [illegible] sheer [illegible] joy he finds in tormenting [illegible]

IN ADVENTURES FIRST PUBLISHED in 1970, the original X-Men reunited with Professor X to combat a conquering alien race, the Z'nox, before clashing with the superhumanly strong Incredible Hulk in Las Vegas. Then the X-Men's original series was discontinued, and five years passed before the new X-Men team was launched. Their first adventure pitted them against the strangest of adversaries, Krakoa, a mutant entity comprising all the vegetation on a small island. A new wave of villains soon followed, including the N'garai race of demons, who could emerge from another dimension through a cairn on Xavier's estate. In Japan, the X-Men struggled against Moses Magnum, who had the power to start large-scale earthquakes. Longtime nemeses returned, including Magneto, the Juggernaut, the Sentinels, Mesmero, and Count Nefaria, the Italian crimelord responsible for the death of the new X-Man, Thunderbird. This period also introduced such formidable adversaries as the Inner Circle of the Hellfire Club, Black Tom Cassidy, Zaladane, and Proteus, all of whom are featured elsewhere in this book.

Arcades real name and pa[illegible] mysteries. He [illegible] murdered his [illegible]

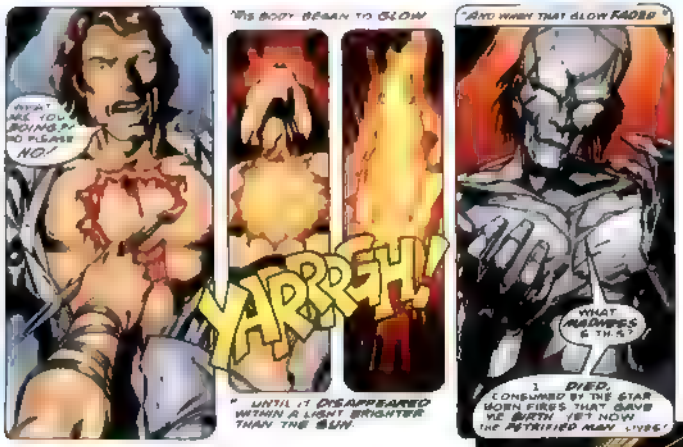
THE UNHOLY THREE

The three most infamous villains who first appeared in the 1970s are featured on these pages: Arcade, Garokk, and the Shadow King. The latest series, *X-Men: The Hidden Years*, has introduced various new villains who fought the X-Men in between the original team's run-in with the Hulk and the new team's debut. Notable among them is the mutant Deluge, who controlled a storm that threatened to wipe out half of the Earth's population.



Arcade and Murderworld

The most eccentric—and expensive—of assassins is known only as Arcade. For a million-dollar fee he will trap any victim in one of his Murderworlds—secret high-tech death traps that resemble amusement park attractions. Arcade failed to kill the X-Men when first hired by the Juggernaut and Black Tom Cassidy. But he keeps on trying, seeing the X-Men as ideal opponents in his murderous games.



Garokk

In the 1400s, a British sailor was shipwrecked off the Antarctic coast and was carried by a current ashore to the Savage Land. There he found an idol of Garokk the Sun God and drank a strange potion from its altar. Returning to England, he found that the elixir had made him immortal at the price of slowly transforming his body into the living image of the idol. Because of his petrified skin, he is known as the Petrified Man. In recent years he returned to the Savage Land, where he gained superhuman powers. Reverting to human form, he died of extreme old age. But then Zaladane, high priestess of Garokk, resurrected him, transforming a captive's body into that of the Petrified Man. Together, Garokk and Zaladane attempted to enslave the peoples of the Savage Land.

GAROKK'S POWERS

Garokk has the power to shoot beams of light [illegible] from his eyes. When Kraven [illegible] the X-Men tried to stop Garokk and Zaladane, the [illegible] Man fought alongside the X-Men. Garokk and Zaladane [illegible] were defeated when [illegible] after a decade [illegible] Savage Land. [illegible] Antarctic [illegible] Garokk [illegible] Garokk [illegible] resurrected again, [illegible]

Shadow King

The first evil mutant Charles Xavier encountered was the Shadow King, whose telepathic powers rivaled his own. Last met in Cairo, Egypt, where the Shadow King was inhabiting the body of Amahl Farouk, they waged a battle of the astral plane, and Xavier was [illegible] the Shadow King's powerless body. But the Shadow King [illegible] temporarily gained possession of new bodies, such as the New Mutants' Karma and Cypher.

[illegible]

[illegible] Shadow King [illegible] for [illegible] the Shadow King [illegible] But [illegible] they are [illegible] and [illegible] as they [illegible]

On the astral plane the Shadow King can assume any form he chooses.

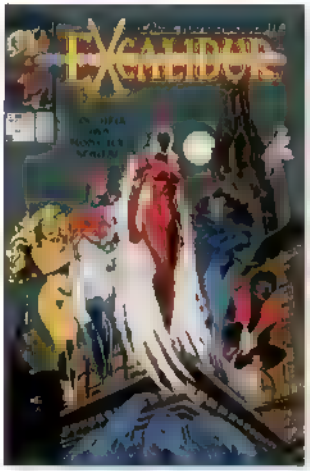
EIGHTIES

THE X-MEN IN THE 1980s

ACCLAIMED BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC FOLLOWING, *The Uncanny X-Men* was still a cult success in 1980. With the continued collaboration of Chris Claremont and John Byrne, sales continued to grow, until, by the decade's end, it was the best-selling Super Hero comic book in America.

The team of Claremont, Byrne, and Terry Austin came to an end in 1981, but not before producing two story lines that are considered masterpieces: "The Dark Phoenix Saga" and "Days of Future Past." Byrne left to write and draw Marvel's *Fantastic Four* and a new series, *Alpha Flight*, starring the Canadian Super Heroes he had created for *X-Men* in 1979. Claremont continued writing *The Uncanny X-Men* throughout the decade. Initially Dave Cockrum returned to draw the series, but was succeeded by young artists Paul Smith, John Romita Jr., and Marc Silvestri.

Since most of the members of the X-Men were now adults, it made sense to create a spin-off title returning to the original concept of Professor Xavier training a class of mutant teenagers. Hence, Claremont and artist Bob McLeod introduced *The New Mutants* as a graphic novel in 1982. A monthly *New Mutants* comic book followed the next year and later dazzled readers with the astonishing visual experimentation of artist Bill Sienkiewicz. The most popular of the "new" X-Men, Wolverine starred in a classic four-issue limited series in 1982 that paired Claremont with artist Frank Miller.



Excalibur #1 (August 1988)
First appearance of the Excalibur team
Cover art by Alan Davis and Paul Neary

Alpha Flight vol. 1 #1 (August 1983)
First appearance of Alpha Flight
Cover art by John Byrne

By 1988 Wolverine was starring in his own monthly comic book. The original X-Men regrouped in 1986 in *X-Factor*, a new series created by Bob Layton and Jackson Guice which would reach new heights in the hands of artist Walter Simonson and his wife, writer (and former *X-Men* editor) Louise Simonson. Back in the 1970s, Claremont had cocreated the Super Hero Captain Britain for Marvel's UK publications. In 1987, Claremont and British artist Alan Davis assembled a mutant Super Hero team around the Captain in the new *Excalibur* series. Thus, by the end of the 1980s, *The Uncanny X-Men* had spun off an entire family of related titles, including monthly series, limited-run series, and graphic novels. And it was still growing.

1980

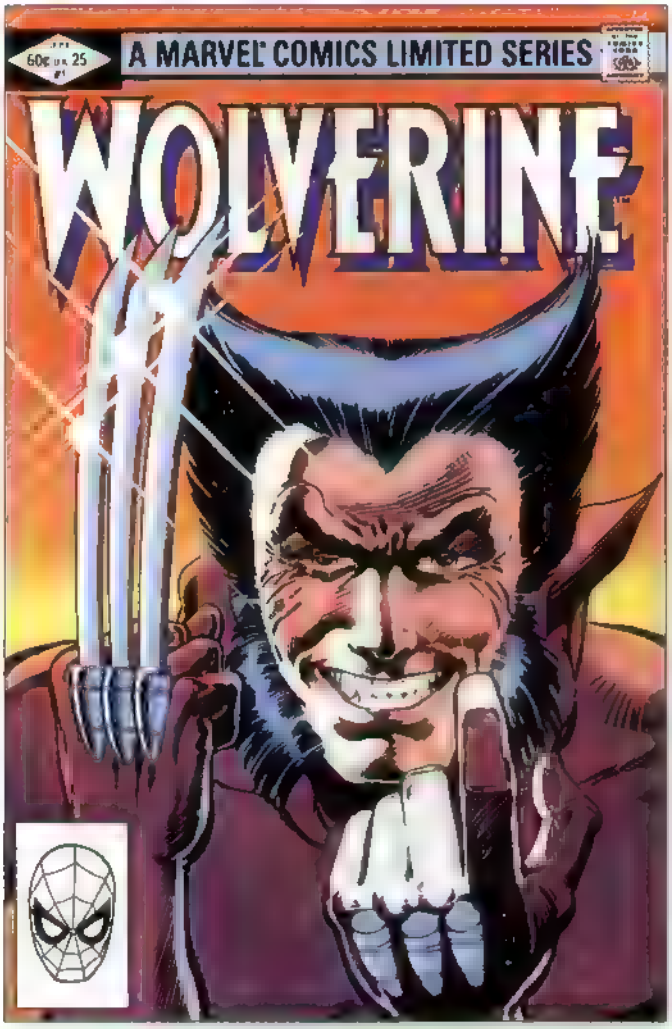
Uncanny X-Men #137
(September 1980)
"Phoenix Must Die!"
(Cover art by John Byrne and Terry Austin)

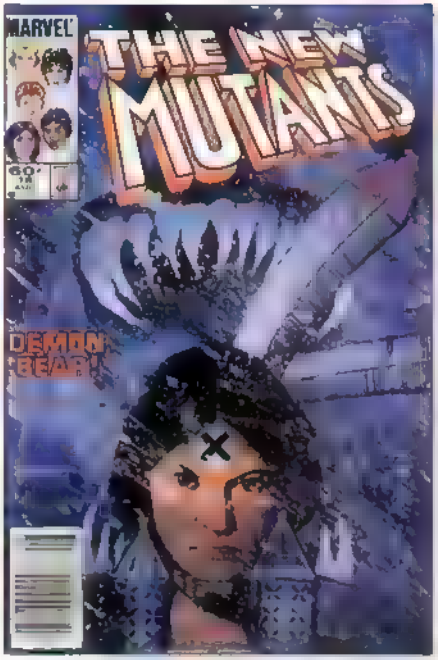
1981

Uncanny X-Men #141
(February 1981)
"Days of Future Past"
(Cover art by Terry Austin and John Byrne)

1983

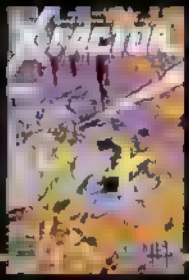
The New Mutants #1
(March 1983)
First appearance of the New Mutants
(Cover art by Bob McLeod)





The New Mutants #18
August 1984
First issue with cover art by Bill Sienkiewicz

Wolverine limited series #1
September 1982
First issue of Wolverine first miniseries
(Cover art by Frank Miller)



1986

X-Factor #1
(February 1986)
First appearance of X-Factor
(Cover art by Walt Simonson)

1988

Wolverine #1
(November 1988)
First issue of Wolverine's ongoing series
(Cover art by John Buscema)

1989

X-Factor #37
(February 1989)
(Cover art by Walt Simonson)

COSTUMING KITTY
Artist Mike Golden created this costume for Kitty Pryde but she was given a more conventional, less daring uniform instead.

Sinister

Uncanny X-Men artist Marc Silvestri designed the costume and physical appearance of Sinister, making him imposing, regal, and eerily enigmatic. He would remain a mysterious mastermind until his origin was finally revealed in the following decade.

SINISTER
DESIGNED BY
MARC SILVESTRI

PSYLOCKE
Artist Adams' new costume made Psylocke look formidable with her body armor and mysterious with her hood and knee-cape!

PSYLOCKE BY
ARTHUR ADAMS

ROGUE
SHADOWCAT
CONCEPT

CHANGING FACES—1980s

CANNONBALL
As shown in New Mutants, creator Bob McLeod's drawing not only was it originally intended for Cannonball to wear a mask, but also to have different powers.

FACE VERSION OF CANNONBALL

Wolfsbane
Another new mutant Wolfsbane, can transform into a wolf while retaining her human intellect, or into a half human, half-wolf transitional form.

EUPINE LOOKS

WOLFSBANE HEADS
In these sketches Bob McLeod experimented with designing Wolfsbane transitional form. She was finally given her distinctive short hair tyle in both her forms—human and half wolf.

IN THE STORIES published throughout the 1980s, Xavier's dream won far more followers than ever before. Newcomers joined the X-Men: Kitty Pryde alias Shadowcat; Rogue, a former mutant terrorist; Rachel Summers, a refugee from a future where mutants are prisoners; the Dazzler, an entertainer who had been blacklisted for being a mutant; Psylocke; and Longshot. Xavier assembled his third generation of students, the New Mutants. Xavier's vision inspired the original X-Men to reorganize the team X-Factor, while Kitty Pryde and Nightcrawler helped to found Excalibur in England. Even Magneto temporarily became Xavier's ally, taking over as teacher of the New Mutants.

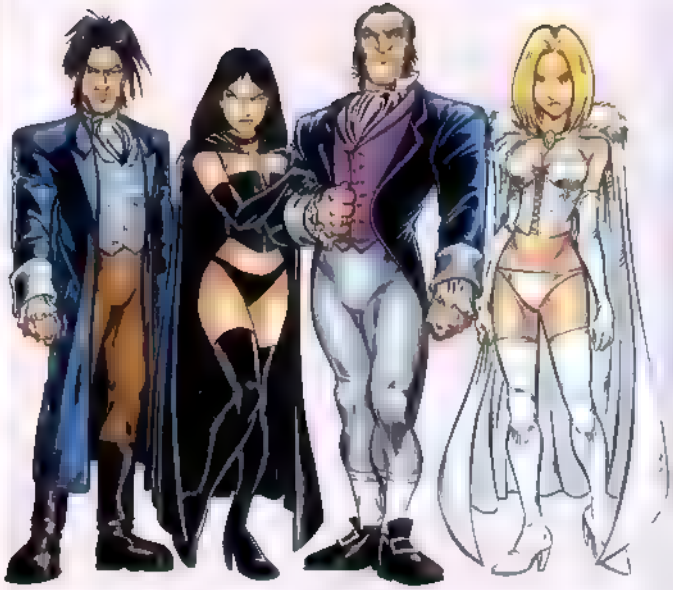
But Xavier's dream was also under assault as never before. Warning of the "mutant menace," Senator Robert Kelly advocated a Mutant Registration Act, the first step in restricting their freedom. The X-Men learned of the "Days of Future Past," an alternate reality in which mutants are kept in prison camps. The ancient mutant Apocalypse sought to foment war between humanity and mutantkind. An enigmatic geneticist, Sinister, engineered the slaughter of the Morlocks, a community of mutant outcasts. The X-Men discovered that the island of Genosha owed its prosperity to enslaving mutants. Xavier himself became a victim of the bigotry when he was beaten nearly to death by antimutant college students.

Scott Summers and Jean Grey seemed lost in a hall of mirrors. He believed that Phoenix was Jean and was devastated when she died. He soon married her exact look-a-like, Madelyne Pryor, and they had a son, Nathan. But then the real Jean turned up alive; Phoenix had usurped her identity, and Madelyne, with powers of her own, became the X-Men's enemy. Wolverine underwent a spiritual crisis in Japan, finally learning to master the berserker side of his personality to defeat his enemy Lord Shingen. But on a return visit, battling the warrior Ogun, Wolverine discovered that should he drop his guard, the madness could still overwhelm him.

By the end of the decade, the X-Men seemed to have lost their way. Xavier was traveling in space with the exiled Lilandra. Some X-Men had vanished; others had disbanded the team and gone their separate ways; Wolverine wandered along the Pacific Rim with a young mutant girl named Jubilee. As a team, the X-Men were no more.

HELLFIRE CLUB

WHEREAS the X-Men are branded outlaws, the members of the centuries-old Hellfire Club represent society's favored elite: the wealthy, the privileged, and the famous. Few besides the X-Men know that most of the members of the Hellfire Club's Inner Circle, the Lords Cardinal, are mutants intent on dominating the rest of humanity. Founded in the 1760s in London, England, the Hellfire Club began as a meeting place for the highest ranks of British society. There they could meet to make deals and secretly indulge in pleasures that were forbidden by the morality of their time. In the 1770s two of the club's leading members, the wealthy trading company owner Sir Patrick Clemens and his mistress, Diana Knight, emigrated to New York City, where they founded the American branch of the Hellfire Club. Today, the Hellfire Club's ranks include politicians, business leaders, socialites, and celebrities from all over the world. The general public—and even most of its members—consider the club to be a social organization with an irreproachable reputation. However, for generations the Inner Circle has been a secret cabal intent on amassing political and economic power and influence by illicit means.

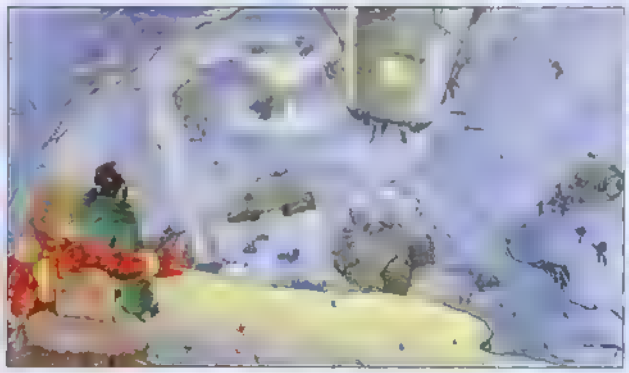


SEBASTIAN SHAW WHITE KING — NOLEN BLACK QUEEN — SEBASTIAN SHAW BLACK KING — EMMA FROST WHITE QUEEN

THE INNER CIRCLE
The Hellfire Club's most powerful members belong to its so-called Inner Circle. Members of the Inner Circle conditionally wear clothes with an 18th century flavor for meeting and other formal occasions.

PAST MEMBERS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB
Membership in the Hellfire Club has been passed down through certain upper class families for many generations. Hence, years ago, the club's membership included not only Sebastian Shaw but the fathers of Warren Worthington III, Archangel, and inventor Tony Stark, Iron Man, as well as a relative of Brian Braddock (Captain Britain).

London headquarters
When in London, Sebastian Shaw operates from an enormous mansion that was bequeathed to the Hellfire Club by the late Sir Henry Manners, an important member of the Inner Circle. The club's social events are held in another locale in central London.



New York mansion

The Hellfire Club's historic New York mansion stands on Fifth Avenue near Central Park in Manhattan's Upper East Side. This is not only the venue for the club's renowned parties, but also the secret base of operations for Sebastian Shaw and the rest of the inner circle.

DARK PHOENIX

THE DARK PHOENIX SAGA is the tale of how Jean Grey, the X-Men's first female member, became a virtual goddess, possessing seemingly limitless power. It is the story of how she fell from grace into madness through the machinations of an old enemy, and of how she heroically sacrificed her life to save the entire universe. Following a battle with the Sentinels in space, the X-Men escaped back to Earth in a space shuttle piloted by Jean. The shuttle plunged through a solar radiation storm, exposing her to lethal energies. Yet when the shuttle crashed into a bay, the X-Men saw Jean rise from the waters as Phoenix. Her psionic powers had increased to potentially unlimited levels. But she soon fell victim to Mastermind, who brainwashed her into becoming the Black Queen of the Hellfire Club. Mastermind was unable to control her for long, however, and she became the insane Dark Phoenix, wreaking havoc through the cosmos. Professor X managed to return Jean to sanity, but only temporarily. Cyclops watched in horror as Jean committed suicide rather than revert to Dark Phoenix.

Black Queen

Using his powers of illusion Mastermind made Jean [illegible] that she was a decadent woman living in 18th century England. When Mastermind was finished, he had [illegible] into becoming the Hellfire Club's ruthless Black Queen.

Jean in costume as the Black Queen of the Hellfire Club

UNLEASHED

By awakening the [illegible] of Jean [illegible] personality, Mastermind released a force he could not control. The Black Queen turned vengefully against him [illegible] with a [illegible] of the [illegible] that [illegible] and leaving him [illegible] before the other X-Men [illegible] Jean transformed into the insane Dark Phoenix and flew off into the depths of space.

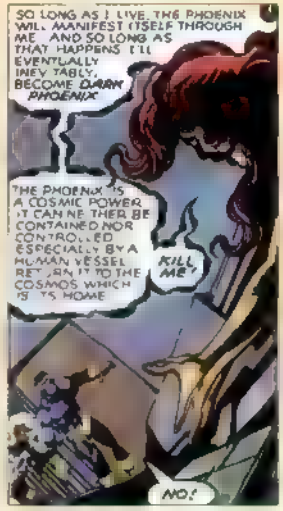
[illegible]

Royal decree

Returning to Earth, Dark Phoenix easily overpowered the attacking X-Men. But then Charles Xavier unleashed the full power of his mind against Phoenix, and Jean's true personality struggled back into control. Phoenix collapsed unconscious and awoke in Cyclops' arms as Jean, her dark side exorcized, for the moment. Suddenly, the X-Men were teleported into a starship, where the Shiar empress Lilandra demanded that Jean be destroyed lest she someday become Dark Phoenix once again. Invoking Shiar law, Xavier insisted on a trial by combat to determine whether or not Jean would live. The next day, the X-Men faced the Imperial Guard in this trial by combat and [illegible] in the Moon.

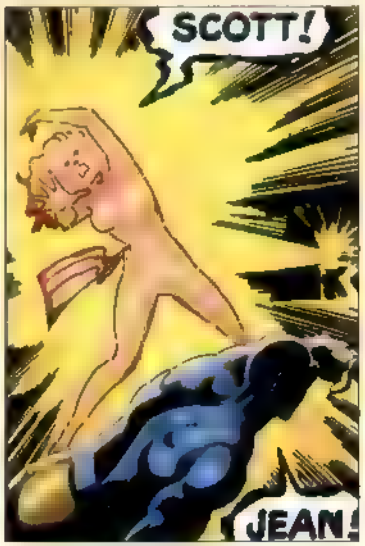
The only solution

In the [illegible] of the battle against the Imperial Guard, Jean began reverting to Dark Phoenix. Xavier telepathically ordered the X-Men to stop her before she reached her full power. When Colossus struck her [illegible] true personality [illegible] more. [illegible] her [illegible] again, Jean [illegible] way to [illegible] Phoenix Force [illegible]. Desperately, she pleaded with the X-Men and [illegible] man she loved [illegible] they could not bring themselves to do it.



MIGUKNING
Emotionally devastated Cyclops left the X-Men for many months. Only years later would he and the other X-Men learn the truth about Phoenix.

THE AFTERMATH
Phoenix was actually a being of pure energy that had taken Jean's form. The real Jean eventually revived from suspended animation and was reunited with Scott.



Jean's sacrifice

Jean fled into a building amid the ruins. Bidding Scott a last farewell, she telekinetically triggered an ancient energy cannon. As Cyclops watched helplessly, the blast annihilated her body. Dark Phoenix was destroyed, and the Phoenix Force was released back into the cosmos.

SHADOWCAT

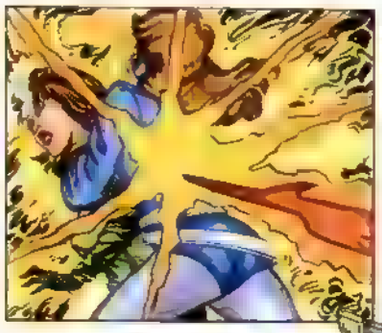
KATHERINE "KITTY" PRYDE was a typical 13-and-a-half-year-old teenager living in a Chicago suburb when she first did a very atypical thing: she discovered she could walk through walls. Kitty had begun to manifest her mutant ability to "phase" through solid objects by mentally altering the vibratory rates of the atoms of her body. Her parents were approached by the heads of two different schools for "special" students. One was Charles Xavier; the other was Emma Frost, the White Queen of the nefarious Hellfire Club. Several of the X-Men accompanied Xavier on his visit to Kitty's home, and when the White Queen captured them, Kitty helped in their rescue. Kitty Pryde soon joined the ranks of the X-Men. Initially she experimented with different costumes and code names, including Sprite and Ariel. Despite her youth, she proved so valuable a member that Xavier allowed her to remain with the older X-Men even after he organized the New Mutants, who were closer to Kitty's age. She also proved to have considerable computer skills. On a mission in outer space, Kitty first encountered a tiny alien dragon whom she named Lockheed. It followed her back to Earth and became her loyal companion.

Lockheed

Kitty once made up a fairy tale in which she portrayed the X-Men's jet, built by the Lockheed company, as a gigantic, friendly dragon. Later on another planet, Kitty found a small creature who looked like a dragon, could fly and even breathe flame, so she named him Lockheed. Devoted to Kitty, Lockheed is no mere pet, but an intelligent being who often appears to understand English.

WOLVERINE THE MENTOR

Wolverine became a mentor to Kitty and, during a stay in Japan, he gave her intensive training in the martial arts. It was then that she adopted the alias that she still uses today: Shadowcat. Shadowcat became a founding member of the British-based Super Hero team Excalibur. During her time in the group she became romantically involved with her teammate, former intelligence operative Peter Wisdom. Since their breakup, Shadowcat has returned to the United States and to membership of the X-Men. She is now a little older, and the naive, wide-eyed girl who first walked into Xavier's mansion is now a mature, self-reliant, and formidable young woman.



Out of phase

Originally Kitty could only make herself intangible, then she learned how to "phase" objects and people she touched as well. She has also learned to use her phasing ability to "walk on air, climbing to the top of a tall building as if she were climbing a sure-fire! Although Kitty can pass through any solid matter, she can still be affected by some forms of energy. An energy blast fired by Harpoon, a member of the Marauders, caused her to lose her ability to become fully tangible for months.

Master warrior

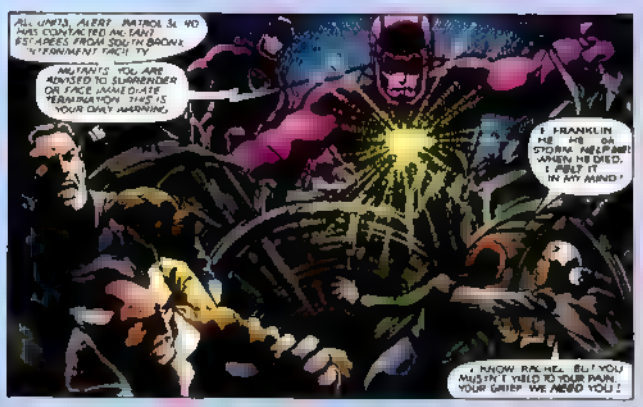
One of the greatest turning points in Kitty's life came after she was captured by Wolverine's enemy, the near immortal warrior Ogun. Once she was free, Wolverine gave her a crash course in samurai fighting techniques.

Peter Wisdom

Kitty's first love was Colossus when both were young and innocent. But when she was a few years older, Kitty moved to Britain, joined Excalibur, and fell in love with a considerably older man, ex-secret agent Peter Wisdom. This older mutant has the ability to create "hot knives" of energy which he can throw at opponents. Perhaps because of the age difference, this contentious love affair did not last long.

DAYS OF FUTURE PAST

IN THE WORLD of the X-Men, the future may take any number of alternate directions. The path that leads to the 'Days of Future Past' sees Charles Xavier's dream turn into a nightmare in which mutants are imprisoned or slaughtered. It began when Senator Robert Kelly was assassinated by Mystique and her terrorist Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Outraged government officials unleashed the Sentinels on the mutant population. Inevitably, the Sentinels took control of all of North America. Charles Xavier and many of the X-Men were slain, and others were confined to a concentration camp. The spirit of one of those inmates, Kate Pryde, travelled back through time into the body of her teenage self, Kitty, to prevent Kelly's assassination. Thanks to Kate's heroism, the present-day X-Men's future may take a different, better path. But they remain haunted by their knowledge of the 'Days of Future Past', knowing that unless they guard against it, a similar future could still arise.



On the run

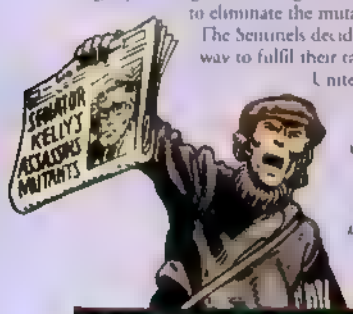
In the future, the surviving X-Men, including older versions of Colossus and Storm, devised a plan to change history. They had young mutant Rachel Summers use her psionic powers to send Kate Pryde's spirit back through time into her younger self's body. Then Wolverine helped them break out of the concentration camp in which they had been imprisoned. But they could not long escape the implacable Sentinels, who hunted them down.

Time traveller

In the X-Men's present, they had only recently welcomed thirteen-year-old Kitty Pryde into their team. Suddenly Kitty's soul was thrust into the future as her body was possessed by the spirit of her future self, the middle-aged Kate Pryde. Kate began telling the astounded X-Men who she was and how she had journeyed through time to stop the series of events that led to the horrors of the 'Days of Future Past'.

Future horror

Kate told the present-day X-Men that in the 'Days of Future Past' timeline Mystique and her Brotherhood killed Senator Robert Kelly to warn Americans not to take legal action against mutants. But instead the assassination inflamed anti-mutant bigotry, leading the federal government to dispatch the Sentinels to eliminate the mutant problem once and for all. The Sentinels decided that the most effective way to fulfil their task was to take control of the United States.



RESCUE MISSION
The present-day X-Men flew to Washington, D.C., where they fought to stop the Sentinels' hand from reaching the Senator. Kate was joined by [illegible] Kelly as [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] future would become inevitable.

Armageddon

The future X-Men succeeded in penetrating the Sentinels' innermost sanctum, but to no avail. One Sentinel annihilated Wolverine with a single power blast, leaving only his virtually indestructible adamantium skeleton behind. Then Storm and Colossus met their own ends at the Sentinels' hands, and only Rachel was left to guard Kate's unconscious body.

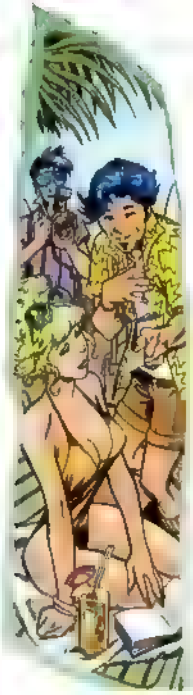
MOMENT OF TRUTH
Just as the mutant Destiny fired her crossbow at Kelly, Kate 'phased' through her upsetting her aim.

A new future

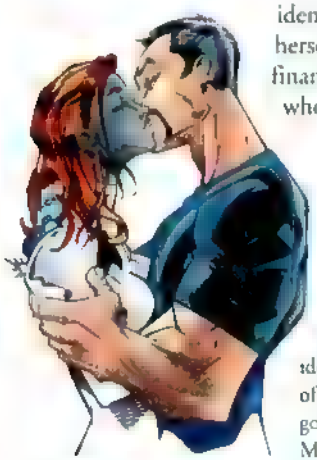
Destiny's arrow narrowly missed Kelly, and his life was saved. At that instant, Kate's spirit travelled back to the future, and Kitty's spirit returned to her teenage body. Due to the paradoxical nature of time travel, Kate found that the 'Days of Future Past' still existed. But because she had saved Senator Kelly in the present, the X-Men of our time are now following an alternate path through time, in which Xavier's dream may yet become a reality.

MYSTIQUE

THE SHAPESHIFTING MUTANT Mystique has assumed so many identities over her long life that not even she is sure of her original name. Mystique is a metamorph who can alter her form at will to impersonate other people, create new identities for herself, or even transform herself into a monster. Her power also slows down the aging process, maintaining her youthful appearance. However, she cannot duplicate the superhuman powers of those she impersonates, or increase or decrease her mass. She looks young today, yet we know she was around in the 1930s. Back then she appeared as a man and worked in Britain as a detective named D. Raven. It was in this role that she first met Irene Adler, alias Destiny, a blind woman with the mutant ability to see into the future. The two mutants remained companions for many years until Destiny's recent death. Another of the early identities Mystique created for herself was that of billionaire financier B. Byron Biggs, a recluse who was rarely seen.



One of Mystique's later identities is that of Ronnie Lake, who quickly became famous as the "Model of the Millennium," a role that she relished



Serving together in X-Factor, Mystique and Forge became strongly attracted to each other. Yet neither could trust the other: Forge knew Mystique was an unrepentant criminal, and Mystique resented Forge for using an inhibitor implant to keep her in X-Factor.

MUTANT TERRORIST

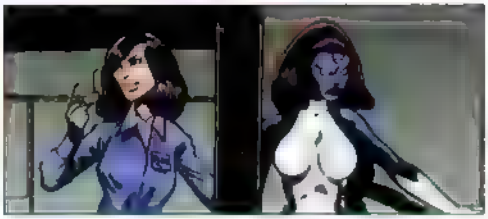
Mystique once served in the Pentagon as Raven Darkholme, a Department of Defense official, until the government learned her true identity. This is one of the many guises she can slip into when need be, another favorite being her long-maintained identity as Mallory Brickman, the wife of a US senator. Many of these roles have been used by Mystique to pursue her evil goals through her own version of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, which she formed in outrage at the public's attempts to restrict mutants' freedom. The Brotherhood began by trying to assassinate Senator Robert Kelly, only to be thwarted by the X-Men in the first of many clashes between them. Later, Mystique and her Brotherhood worked for the government under the name Freedom Force. When it disbanded, Mystique reluctantly joined the government's new mutant team, X-Factor, before escaping and returning to her life as an outlaw.

Mystique's gray-black skin and yellow eyes are genetic signs inherited by her son, Nightcrawler

Mystique can psionically shift the atoms and molecules of her clothing to alter their appearance

Weighty matters

Mystique can't alter her own body mass at will. If she impersonates someone bigger than herself, she won't weigh as much. The longer she maintains a larger form, the greater the strain she feels. So she usually prefers to take the form of people her own height and weight.

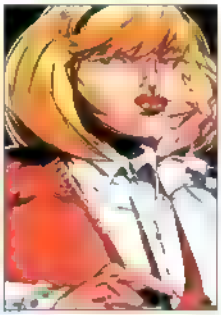


Secret identity

This panel shows Mystique changing from [illegible] Darkholme into her true form [illegible] in the [illegible] to go through a doorway! As Darkholme she [illegible] the deputy director of a top-level, secret government defense agency. In this position, she learned [illegible] secrets and obtained advanced weapons for her terrorist activities.

[illegible] Mystique [illegible]

[illegible] Mystique [illegible] to take [illegible] disguise [illegible] Magneto [illegible] Mahoney [illegible]



Bizarre family

Mystique has some of the most unusual family ties in the mutant world. Her first son, the antimutant demagogue Graydon Creed, was the result of an affair she had with Sabretooth. From another liaison, Mystique gave birth to Nightcrawler, whom she abandoned. Later, she fostered and raised the mutant Rogue.

[illegible] Mystique [illegible] Bugle [illegible] Spider-Man worked for.

Graydon Creed *Nightcrawler* *Rogue*

ON SCREEN

In the *X-Men* movie, Mystique serves as a member of Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants instead of heading the team herself. Rather than wear a costume, her entire body is covered in blue scales making her look even more inhuman. To make any of the characters she impersonates appear clothed, she simply uses her morphing power to make parts of her flesh look like clothing. The first we see of this is when Mystique is disguised as Guy Gilchrist, Senator Kelly's aide. In this guise, she helps in the kidnapping of the senator and his transformation into a mutant by Magneto's device. Mystique is later shown battling the X-Men inside the Statue of Liberty. Amidst the confusion caused by a thick bank of fog created by Storm to mask the X-Men's arrival, Mystique attacks the mutant heroes by impersonating Wolverine. The real Wolverine blocks her attack, and the two mutants begin to fight it out. But even in the same guise, Mystique cannot match Wolverine's fighting abilities. Escaping up a storm drain, she returns to the battle again, this time disguised as Storm. Once again, Wolverine confronts her, this time using his extrasensitive smell to spot the mutant's disguise and his adamantium claws to stop her.

ROGUE

USUALLY GOOD-HUMORED AND FEISTY, Rogue nonetheless bears the burden of a mutant power that feels to her like a curse. If Rogue's skin touches that of any other person, she absorbs all of that person's memories and abilities, leaving her victim unconscious until the transfer wears off. Rogue's plight is that she cannot control this power, and hence, she is unable to touch anyone else without triggering the transfer. As a result, she covers her entire body with clothing to prevent her skin coming into contact with that of another person. Rogue grew up in the deep South of the United States, along the banks of the Mississippi River. Her mutant power abruptly surfaced when she first kissed her friend Cody. Her mind was overwhelmed by Cody's memories, while he sank into a permanent coma. Afraid of endangering anyone else, she ran off to live as a hermit. She kept her true name a secret, so people dubbed her "Rogue."

The young Rogue was initially suspicious of Mystique and confronted the shapeshifting mutant when she first approached. But Mystique appealed to Rogue as a loner, revealing her true blue skinned identity. As a result of this trust, the two grew close, and Mystique raised Rogue as if she were her daughter

SWITCHING SIDES

Another mutant, Mystique, found Rogue and raised her as a foster daughter. But Mystique also inducted Rogue into her terrorist Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. During a battle with the Super Hero Ms. Marvel, Rogue permanently absorbed her powers of flight, superhuman strength, and near invulnerability. Mystique could not teach Rogue how to control her absorption power, so out of desperation, Rogue turned to the Brotherhood's enemy, Professor X, for help. At first, several members of the X-Men turned against Rogue, but they eventually accepted her when they realized how sincere she was. Although she still has not mastered her absorption ability, Rogue has found a new, happier, more fulfilling life as a member of the X-Men. Surrounded by her new "family," she has developed a high-spirited personality—she even found romance, for a time, with one of her fellow X-Men, Gambit.

Rogue wears costumes that keep most of her body covered. Should her skin accidentally come into contact with the skin of another person, she will automatically absorb his or her memories and abilities

Rogue's personal trademark is the white streak which runs through her hair

Teenage terrorist

Raised by Mystique, the adolescent Rogue joined the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants and repeatedly battled the X-Men as well as other Super Heroes. But Mystique did not provide the guidance the troubled girl needed to cope with her powers, and so the anguished Rogue forsook her Brotherhood to join the X-Men. Despite their estrangement, Rogue still regards Mystique as her foster mother and recently learned that Nightcrawler is Mystique's son and thus her foster brother.

Rogue's powers

[illegible] ...ctims abilities to Rogue [illegible] ...racteristics, if she touches [illegible] ...kin will turn blue!

ON SCREEN

In the *X-Men* movie, Rogue does not have a past with Mystique and does not steal the mutant powers of Ms. Marvel. Nor does she have the comic book Rogue's extrovert personality, but she does retain the broad Southern accent. Instead, the on-screen Rogue is more like the character when she first appeared in the comics. Withdrawn and afraid of her own mutant powers, the [illegible] the young Rogue roaming the [illegible] human contact wherever possible. Her travels take her to a remote Canadian bar, where she comes into contact with another loner, the wandering Wolverine. After reluctantly giving Rogue a lift, the two are attacked by Sabretooth and only rescued after the intervention of two X-Men, Storm and Cyclops.

At first, Rogue settles in well with her new, adopted family at Xavier's Mansion. However, the other young mutants at the school shun her when she accidentally absorbs Wolverine's healing powers and renders him unconscious. Rogue runs away, only to be kidnapped by Magneto, who reveals that she is central to his plans. He needs Rogue to absorb his abilities and power a device he has built that will turn normal humans into mutants. However, the huge amount of energy needed to power the device will kill the young mutant.

PHOENIX II

Despite being tormented and tortured by Ahab, the cruel master of the mutant "hounds," Rachel finally broke free of her brainwashing. She used her mental powers to conceal the "hound" tattoos that covered her face

IN THE ALTERNATE TIMELINE of the "Days of Future Past," Scott Summers and Jean Grey raised a daughter, Rachel, who inherited her mother's powerful telepathic and telekinetic abilities. When Rachel was still a child, federal troops attacked the X-Men's mansion and captured her. Rachel was subsequently brainwashed and forced by her master, Ahab, to serve as a "hound," using her telepathic powers to hunt down other mutants. The teenage Rachel finally broke free from her conditioning and rebelled against her masters, only to be placed in a prison camp with the other surviving X-Men. Later, she used her powers to travel through dimensions and time to the present-day reality of the X-Men we know. There she not only joined the team, but also discovered that, like her mother, she could access the potentially limitless power of the Phoenix Force.

Rachel manifests the Phoenix Force as a fiery bird of prey.

The Phoenix Force

The Phoenix Force is a manifestation of a primal force of the universe. Derived from the psionic energies of the minds of all living beings, the Phoenix Force has virtually infinite power. It also embodies the passion to create or (as in Dark Phoenix's case) to destroy. In Rachel's native timeline, the first Phoenix did not commit suicide, and Rachel inherited her mother's genetic ability to tap into and wield the Phoenix Force

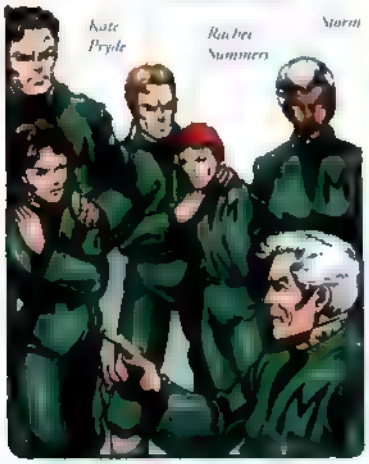
MOTHER ASKANI

Rachel joined the new British Super Hero team, Excalibur. To save her teammate Captain Britain, who had become trapped in the timestream, Rachel used her powers to exchange places with him. As a result, she journeyed two thousand years into the future and created the Clan Askani, a group of freedom fighters who opposed the tyranny of that timeline's evil ruler, Apocalypse. By defeating his operative, Councillor Diamanda Nero, Rachel severed her ties with the Phoenix Force, sending it back into outer space. Years later, as the elderly Mother Askani, Rachel transported Scott Summers' infant son Nathan to her future time, and then brought Scott and Jean Grey there to raise the child. She died soon after, but Nathan grew up to become the savior of the era, the mutant warrior known as Cable.

PHOENIX UNLEASHED

Not until after Rachel came to the present did she gain access to the power of the Phoenix Force, although presumably she had unknowingly drawn upon it to travel through time. Rachel never learned to utilize more than a small portion of the Force to boost her own powers. But this was enough to make her a highly formidable opponent, especially when she gave way to her fiery temper. She once even returned to the "Days of Future Past" with her fellow Excalibur members where they put an end to the Sentinels tyranny.

HOUND TATTOOS
When Rachel served Apocalypse, her face was tattooed to mark her as one of his mutant hunting "hounds." Afterward, Rachel ordinarily used her telepathic abilities to create the illusion that her face was unmarked. But she often let her tattoos show when going into action as Phoenix.



THE LAST X-MEN
In her original timeline, Rachel was imprisoned in a concentration camp for mutants. Her fellow inmates included Kate (formerly Kitty) Pryde, Colossus, and Storm, all into middle-aged. Franklin Richards, the mutant son of the leader of the Fantastic Four, and their leader, the reformed Magneto, ironically now crippled as the deceased Xavier had been.

Rachel can use her powers of telekinesis to fly.

Askani Motherhood

As Mother Askani, the now aged Rachel had the infant Nathan Summers brought to the far future to become her people's champion. She halted the spread of the techno-organic virus that was killing the baby. But, in case he did not survive, she created his clone, who grew up to become Cable's nemesis, Stryfe.

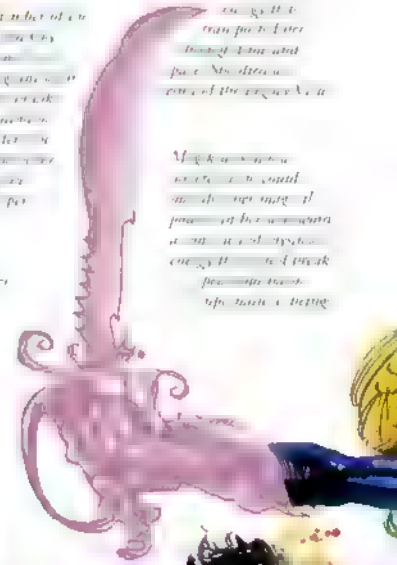
NEW MUTANTS

TAKEN PRISONER by the alien Brood, the X-Men disappeared into outer space, and a despairing Charles Xavier assumed that his students were dead. His close friend Moira MacTaggert assured him that his dream still lived on and urged him to start over. So Xavier gathered together young mutants from around the world. Karma from Vietnam, Wolfsbane from Scotland, Sunspot from Brazil, a Native American named Dani Moonstar, and Cannonball from the state of Kentucky. When the X-Men finally returned home, they discovered that Xavier had assembled a new class of students, the New Mutants. As time went on, more newcomers were added to the mix. The New Mutants found Magma in the Amazon rain forest, and Colossus' little sister, Illyana Rasputin, became known as the sorceress Magik. The classmates' "normal" friend Doug Ramsey proved to have a mutant talent for translating any language. The New Mutants even took in Warlock, a young extraterrestrial being who had fled to Earth to escape his tyrannical father.

[illegible] mutants being trained [illegible] Frost would later help instruct Generation X.

LEAVING EARTH

Shortly after assembling the New Mutants, Xavier abruptly had to leave Earth with the Starjammers, and astonishingly he turned over his school to his archenemy, Magneto. Many months before, when she was holding Magneto prisoner, Moira MacTaggert had tampered with his mind, altering his personality. Abandoning his drive for power, Magneto took over teaching the New Mutants. Little by little, however, Magneto's true personality reemerged, and he ultimately abandoned the school. New members continued to join, including Boom Boom (now known as Meltdown), Rictor, Skids, who was surrounded by a force field, and Rusty Collins, who could generate heat and flame. But without adult guidance, the New Mutants began to drift apart. Finally, the mutant warrior from the future Cable, reorganized the few remaining members into the nucleus of a new team. By the time Xavier returned, the New Mutants had become X-Force.



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Demon bear

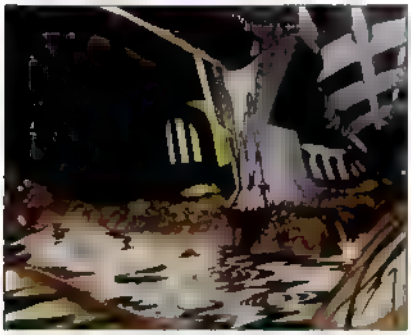
In one of their strangest adventures, the New Mutants battled a gigantic demon bear that had long haunted the dreams of Dani Moonstar and was now [illegible] people. Magik's sailsword [illegible] the bear back into Dani's parents, whom she had long believed dead.

Joining the other side

After Charles Xavier began assembling his new class of students, mercenaries working for the Hellfire Club renegade Donald Pierce killed Dani Moonstar's grandfather and Roberto da Costa's girlfriend. After Xavier defeated Pierce, Dani, Roberto, and Sam Guthrie, who had been one of Pierce's mercenaries, joined Karma and Wolfsbane as the original New Mutants.

THE MORLOCKS

OUTCASTS FROM SOCIETY, the Morlocks were a community of mutants that lived in tunnels beneath New York City and its vicinity. This community was founded by the mutant Callisto who discovered the "Alley," an enormous tunnel underneath Manhattan, which became their home. She then found Caliban, a mutant with the psionic ability to locate other mutants. Using Caliban's power, Callisto located and gathered together many other mutants who had run away from human society. Many who joined the community had been subjects of experiments conducted by the evil geneticist, Dark Beast, after he arrived in this timeline from the "Age of Apocalypse." These other mutants included Masque, who would grotesquely alter the faces of other Morlocks to show their rebellion against human norms.

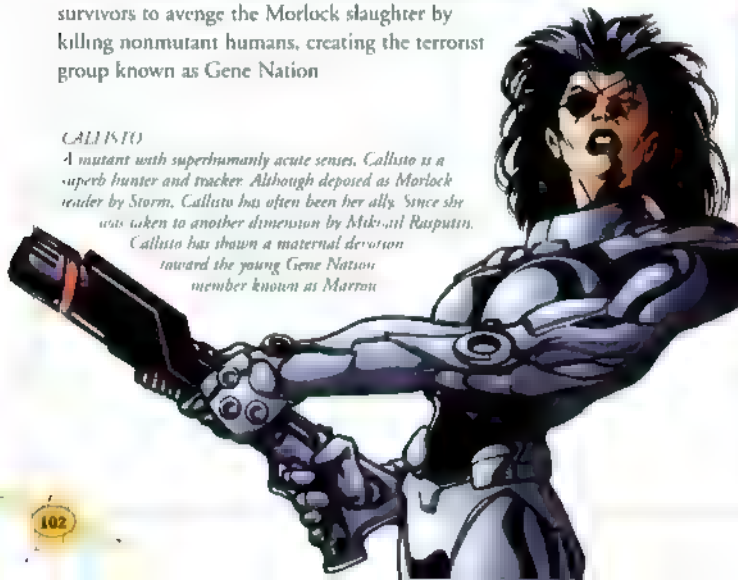


The Morlocks' main tunnel, the "Alley," runs the length of Manhattan. It is the center of a network of tunnels built in the 1950s by the US government for use during a nuclear war. It is part of a sonic system which extends into New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York State.

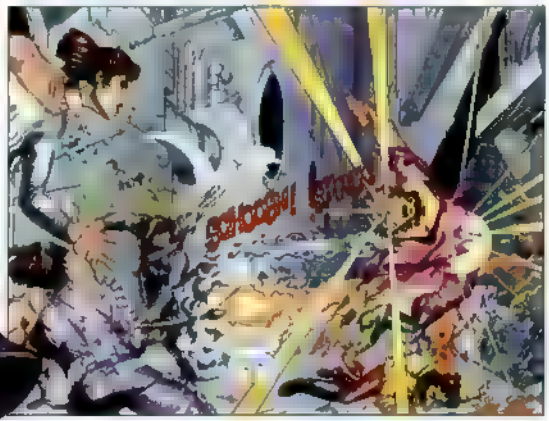
LIFE UNDERGROUND

At one stage, Callisto had Angel kidnapped, intending to make him her mate. To save Angel, Storm fought and won a duel with Callisto, displacing her as leader and forming an alliance between the Morlocks and the X-Men. And then the unthinkable happened. A group of mutant mercenaries, the Marauders, broke into the tunnels and massacred most of the Morlock population. Another mutant, Mikhail Rasputin, saved some of the Morlocks from the attack by taking them to another dimension. Here, Mikhail trained the survivors to avenge the Morlock slaughter by killing nonmutant humans, creating the terrorist group known as Gene Nation.

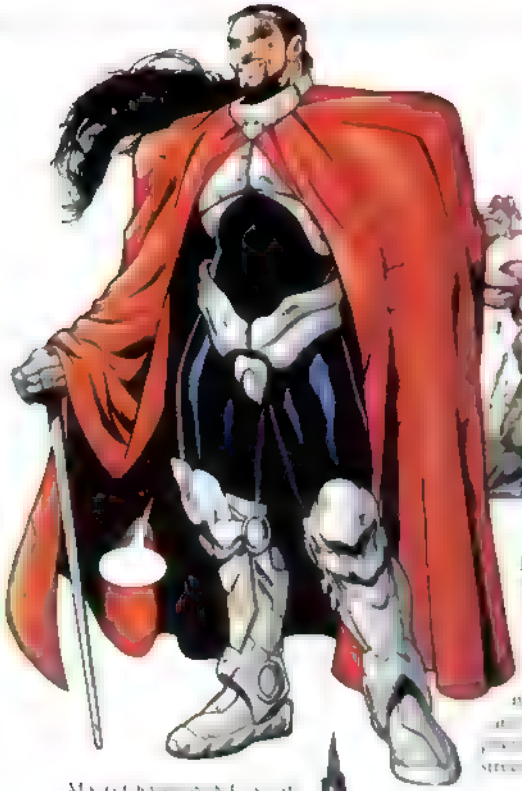
Among the Morlocks
Among the many known members of the Morlocks were the shapeshifter Ape; Erg, the Healer; Leech (who later worked with Generation X); Plague (who later became Apocalypse's Horseman Pestilence); Skids (who generated force fields and later joined Magneto's Acolytes); the superhumanly strong Sunder; and Tar Baby.

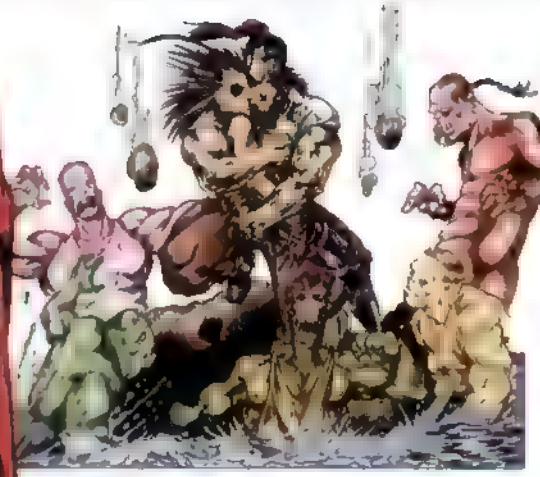


CALLISTO
A mutant with superhumanly acute senses, Callisto is a superb hunter and tracker. Although deposed as Morlock leader by Storm, Callisto has often been her ally. Since she was taken to another dimension by Mikhail Rasputin, Callisto has shown a maternal devotion toward the young Gene Nation member known as Marrow.



The mutant massacre
The malevolent genetic engineer Sinister hired Gambit to assemble the team of superhuman mutants called the Marauders. To Gambit's horror, Sinister sent them into the Morlocks' tunnels to exterminate their entire community. Most of the Morlocks were slaughtered, but a few escaped, some of them through the help of the X-Men and the original X-Factor.





Calvin Mikhail

Morlocks' mad savior

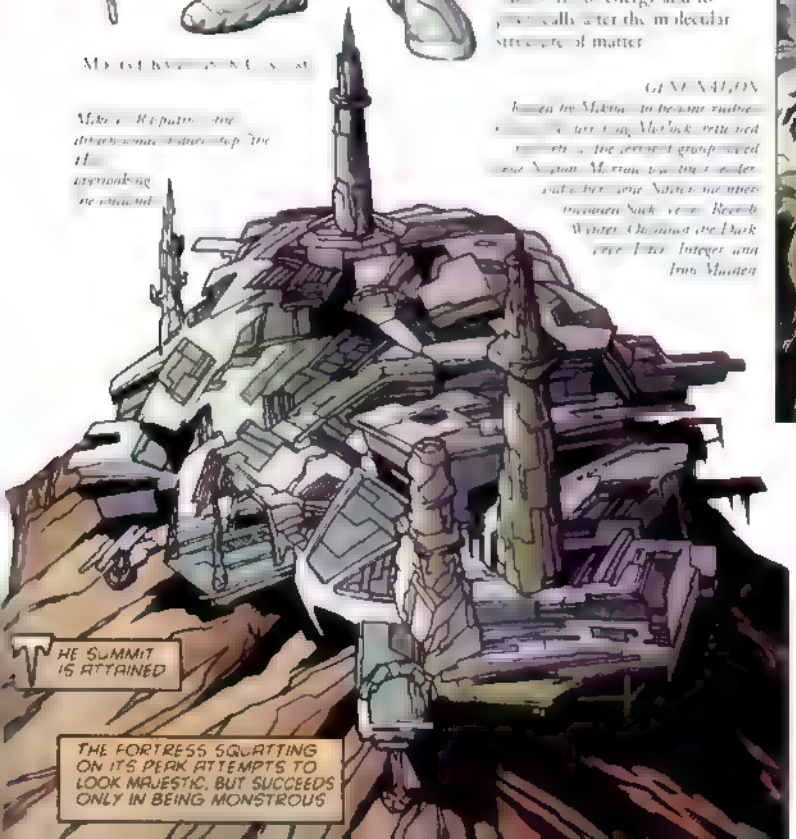
Mikhail was sent to Siberia to investigate a portal through which his ship entered another dimension. When Mikhail used his powers to seal the portal, he unintentionally released energies that killed everyone else in the dimension. Eventually, the X-Men traversed the portal and brought Mikhail back to Earth. There he sought to redeem himself by transporting the Morlocks who had survived the massacre to the other dimension.

Mikhail Rasputin

The older brother of Colossus and Magik, Mikhail was a cosmonaut in the Russian space program. He has the mutant abilities to channel and form of energy and to physically alter the molecular structure of matter.

Mikhail Rasputin, the dimensional shaper, stop the [illegible] overlooking the outlands.

GENE NATION
[illegible] by Mikhail to become [illegible] Morlock [illegible] the terrorist group called Gene Nation. Morrow [illegible] Nation [illegible] Sack [illegible] Wynter, Quinlan, the Dark [illegible] Integer and Iron Maiden.

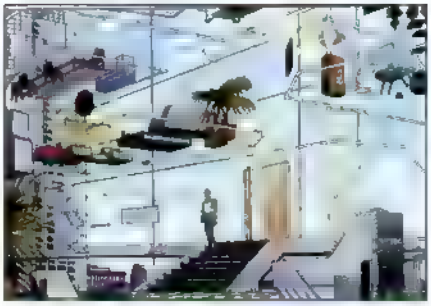


The Hill

Mikhail transported the surviving Morlocks to another dimension where he lived in a citadel in the Hill. In this dimension, time passed much faster and the children whom Mikhail had rescued grew to adulthood, while only a short period of time passed on Earth. Guilt ridden over the deaths he had caused in this dimension when he caused the portal, Mikhail became insane and fell under the influence of an evil entity. He believed that the surviving Morlock children should become warriors to combat human cruelty. Hence, as soon as their mutant powers emerged, he sent them into the outlands and forced them to battle each other.

FORGE

THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS FORGE is characterized by dualities. He is both a mutant and a sorcerer. He is "the Maker," an inventor, and he is a warrior. He is the hope of his Native American tribe, the Cheyenne, and he is a former operative for the United States government. And he is part man and part machine. Born with a potential for gaining extraordinary mystical powers, Forge was trained in magic from childhood by the Cheyenne shaman Naze. But Forge rebelled against his Cheyenne heritage and became a soldier, fighting in Vietnam. When the soldiers he commanded were killed in combat, the enraged Forge drew upon their spirits to summon a horde of demons to attack the enemy. After this misuse of his magic, Forge fell victim to a B-52 airstrike in which he lost both his right hand and right leg.



THE EAGLE'S NEST
When he was designing weapons for the government, Forge lived and worked in the Eagles Nest, a multistory penthouse of his own design located in Dallas, Texas. Floors were suspended in space, with no visible means of support.

The Adversary
From his birth, Forge was trained in magic to become the Cheyenne's champion against the Adversary, a malevolent trickster god who sought to destroy the world in order to remake it. As an adult, Forge fulfilled his destiny by using his sorcery to thwart the Adversary's schemes.

MAN AND MACHINE

Forge was horrified by the carnage wreaked by the demons he had summoned. He abandoned the use of sorcery and turned to his other talent: he was a mutant with an intuitive genius for inventing new forms of technology. He devised a robotic hand and leg for himself and went to work for the US government designing new and advanced weaponry. When government agents used one of his inventions that could neutralize mutant powers against Storm, he felt guilty and rescued her. Later, he reclaimed his magical powers and became the X-Men's ally against the supernatural being known as the Adversary. He eventually joined the X-Men, only to leave them and become the leader of the second version of X-Factor. Ultimately, Forge became disillusioned with the government's antimutant policies, and left to seek a new path in life.

STORM AND FORGE
After Forge rescued Storm from government agents, the two nearly fell in love. But she became angry on learning that Forge had designed the device used to neutralize her powers. The two were reconciled years later.

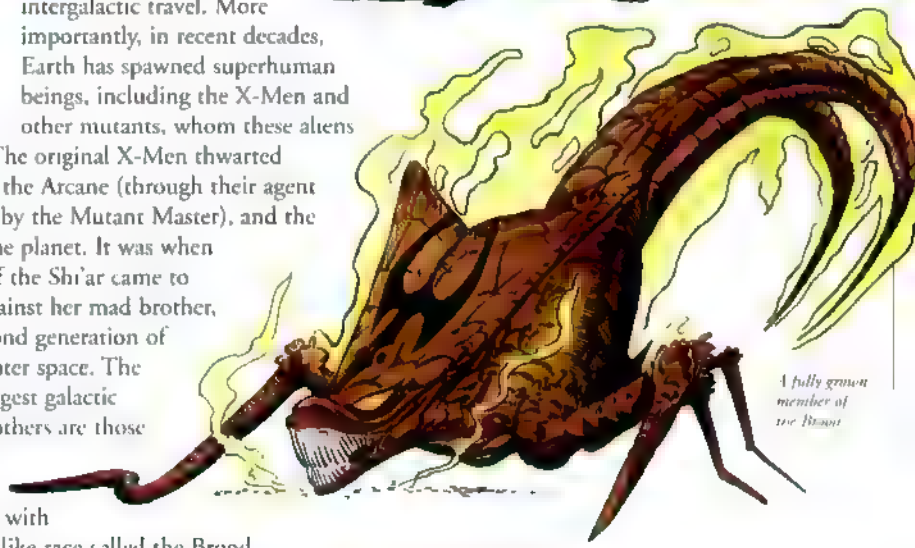
Dire Wraiths
The government first used Forge to create devices which could defeat the Dire Wraiths, a race of shape-changing aliens. Forge eventually created a powerful orbiting device. This was fired at the Dire Wraiths' home world, negating the planet's magic and depriving the Wraiths of their powers.

ALIEN RACES

ACANTI
Resembling whales, the Acanti are sentient beings who can travel through outer space at extraordinary speeds. Hence, many Acanti have been enslaved by the Brood, who use them as living spaceships.

THROUGHOUT THEIR history the X-Men have come into contact with several members of extraterrestrial races, both on Earth and in distant galaxies. Although Earth has no space fleet or galactic empire, it is of prime concern to the rulers of many interstellar empires. First, Earth lies at a major crossroads for intergalactic travel. More importantly, in recent decades, Earth has spawned superhuman beings, including the X-Men and other mutants, whom these aliens perceive as potential threats. The original X-Men thwarted attempts to conquer Earth by the Arcane (through their agent Lucifer), the Siri (represented by the Mutant Master), and the Z'nox, without ever leaving the planet. It was when Princess Lilandra Neramani of the Shi'ar came to Earth seeking Xavier's help against her mad brother, Emperor D'Ken, that the second generation of X-Men first journeyed into outer space. The Shi'ar rule one of the three largest galactic empires in known space; the others are those of the Kree and the Skrulls. By befriending Lilandra, the X-Men became embroiled with her enemies, notably an insectlike race called the Brood.

Brood
Although they resemble Earth insects, members of the Brood are over six feet long. They are cunning, vicious hunters, driven by their need to procreate. The Brood captures members of other species, each of whom acts as a host for an egg laid by the Brood Queen. On hatching, the Brood embryo merges with its host, genetically restructuring the host's body into an adult member of the Brood. Through this process, a member of the Brood can gain superhuman abilities possessed by its host.



A fully grown member of the Brood

BATTLING THE BROOD

It was when the X-Men defeated an attempt to overthrow Lilandra which was supported by the Brood, that this predatory race first learned about the mutants. The Brood captured the X-Men, seeking to make them host bodies for their young. The Brood's homeworld was destroyed during their clash with the X-Men, and the insect race has plagued the mutant team ever since, visiting Earth to find new prey. More recently, the X-Men have contended against the reptilian, shape-changing Skrulls, who have attempted to conquer the Shi'ar

Sidrian hunters
One of many alien races inhabiting the Shi'ar Empire, the Sidri have no native planet but instead live in deep interstellar space. These formidable beings grow additional layers of organic body armor at will within seconds and can fire force blasts from the front of their bodies. Within the Shi'ar galaxy, Sidri work as bounty hunters.

A colony of Sidri can merge together to form a single organism with a collective mind.

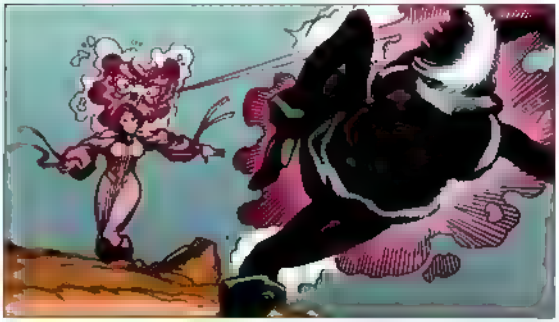
PSYLOCKE

ELIZABETH "BETSY" BRADDOCK is the sister of Brian Braddock, who, as Captain Britain, is the United Kingdom's leading Super Hero. The siblings inherited the genes giving them superhuman powers from their late father, who came from an extradimensional realm called Otherworld. Betsy developed telepathic powers and used them in her work for STRIKE, the British division of the international law enforcement agency SHIELD. At one point, Brian persuaded Betsy to become the new Captain Britain. After she was severely beaten and blinded in combat, however, Brian resumed his role as Captain Britain.

Psylocke psychic knife appears from her right fist

Body Swap

While recuperating, Betsy was captured by Mojo, who restored her sight by giving her new bionic eyes. She was rescued by the New Mutants and became a guest at Professor Xavier's mansion. After holding her own in a battle against Sabretooth, Betsy officially joined the X-Men under the name Psylocke. Thereafter, Betsy's life took perhaps the strangest twist in X-Men history. The X-Men's enemy Spiral swapped over the minds of Betsy and the Japanese assassin Kwannon. Kwannon, now calling herself Revanche, learned that she was infected with the Legacy Virus and had herself killed. As a result, Betsy's original body died, but Betsy lived on in a new body, possessing both her own psychic powers and Kwannon's martial arts skills. Since then Psylocke's powers have undergone various changes, culminating in her recent acquisition of telekinetic powers.



Psylocke now wears the fighter leggings outfit which offers her greater freedom of movement

Psylocke's psi powers

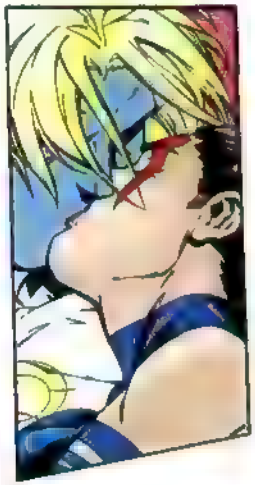
Psylocke's telepathic powers not only enabled her to read minds and communicate mentally, but, like the mental powers of Professor X, she could also strike down opponents with "mental bolts." An energy signature resembling a butterfly sometimes appeared above her head when she used her powers. Psylocke learned to focus her powers into a "psychic knife" which she used to stun or kill her adversary. She has now developed telekinetic powers to replace the telepathic ones she cannot use for fear of releasing the Shadow King.

PSYLOCKE'S SECOND COSTUME

After battling alongside the X-Men for a while Psylocke changed to this new costume. Its body armor afforded her greater protection, and it had a hood and mask to conceal her true identity.

PSYLOCKE'S FIRST COSTUME

Psylocke adopted this costume, more decorative than practical, when she first joined the X-Men. Though her hair is naturally brown, she dyed it purple during her career as a fashion model.



WITH ARCHANGEL

During her early career with the X-Men, Psylocke flirted briefly with Cyclops. He however rejected her advances and remained staunchly loyal to his future wife, Jean Grey. Psylocke finally found romance in the arms of the winged Super Hero Archangel.

Psylocke's sacrifice

Psylocke paid a heavy price to defeat one of the X-Men's greatest enemies, the Shadow King, an evil mutant who had once inhabited the body of the Egyptian Amahl Farouk. She used her telepathic powers to imprison him on another level of reality, known as the Astral Plane, and to stop him from taking possession of other bodies. As a result, she must refrain from using her telepathic powers again. If she were to do so, she runs the risk of setting the Shadow King free.

Merging with Kwannon

Japanese crime boss Matsu'o Tsurayaba made a bargain with the enigmatic Spiral to save the life of his dying lover, the assassin Kwannon. But, to amuse her master, Mojo, Spiral double-crossed Matsu'o. She healed Kwannon's body, but switched her mind with that of Psylocke's. Thus, the woman who now looked like Kwannon had become Matsu'o's enemy. After the mind transfer, Psylocke and Kwannon, who now called herself Revanche, worked as allies, neither one certain of her true identity. But after the truth was revealed, Revanche persuaded her lover Matsu'o to kill her rather than let her die a slow, agonizing death from the Legacy Virus.

ORIGINAL X-FACTOR

X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS
X-Factor's first headquarters was a massive complex on Manhattan's East Side, financed by the wealthy Angel. Later, X-Factor moved into a mosaic skyscraper which Apocalypse had used as his headquarters. This proved to be a spaceship that had been built by the Celestials, a race of all-powerful aliens.

MANY MONTHS AFTER the original Phoenix died, the real Jean Grey awoke from suspended animation and was reunited with the other four original X-Men: Cyclops, the Angel, Beast, and Iceman. By that point Charles Xavier had vanished (he was actually in space with the Starjammers), and the existing X-Men were working with Magneto. Jean proposed that the original X-Men form X-Factor in order to carry on Xavier's legacy. The Angel hired an old classmate, Cameron Hodge, who devised a new image for the team. Hiding their costumed identities, the members of X-Factor pretended to hunt down mutants in order to eliminate the "mutant menace." In reality, X-Factor secretly sheltered the mutants and trained them to use their powers.

At first X-Factor's members wore dark glasses and drab uniforms in their role as mutant hunters. Hence, the public did not realize that they were actually the original X-Men.

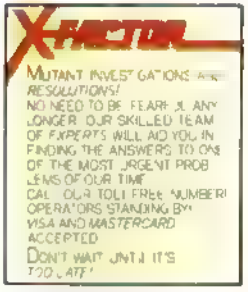
After Apocalypse genetically altered him, Archangel was briefly X-Factor's enemy.

In X-Factor's early days, Beast temporarily reverted to human form.

X-TERMINATORS
Early on, X-Factor's members only used their powers in public as the costumed "X-Terminators." The X-Terminators finally revealed themselves to be X-Factor to take a public stand against antimutant bigotry.

MANIPULATED

Eventually, the members of X-Factor realized that Hodge had been manipulating them to spread antimutant propaganda. Their foe Apocalypse abducted the Angel and transformed him into the being now known as Archangel. Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Beast, and Iceman publicly disavowed Hodge's antimutant campaign and proclaimed their mission to help mutants. Archangel soon rejoined the team, but ultimately the original X-Factor dissolved when Xavier returned to Earth, and X-Factor's founders all returned to the X-Men.



ADVERTISEMENTS
The treacherous Cameron Hodge ran this advertisement for X-Factor in various newspapers to convey the idea that mutants were a "problem spreading "fear.

X-FACTOR JET
As Warren Worthington III, the Angel could use his fortune to supply X-Factor's members with whatever they needed, including this enormous jet.

EXCALIBUR

FOR YEARS, GREAT BRITAIN was home to its own team of costumed adventurers. Its name not only referred to King Arthur's legendary sword, but also alluded to the "X" in the names of the X-Men and other mutant teams. At the center of Excalibur was Brian Braddock who was the UK's leading costumed crusader, Captain Britain. Brian inherited his powers from his father, who came to Earth from Otherplace, an extradimensional realm ruled by a being who purported to be Merlin the sorcerer. Merlin and his daughter Roma imbued Brian with mystical energies that activated his mutant powers and decreed that he use them to serve as Britain's champion. Eventually Captain Britain met and fell in love with Meggan, a mutant shapeshifter. Brian's sister, Elizabeth, became the X-Man Psylocke. Later, Shadowcat and Nightcrawler went to Britain, where they completed their recovery from injuries sustained during the Marauders' massacre of the Morlocks.

Original Excalibur team

The original Excalibur team consisted of [illegible] a shapeshifter who flies, takes energy from the Earth, and fires it in blasts of [illegible] force, and Captain [illegible] who has superhuman [illegible]gth, the ability to fly and a force field. There was [illegible] Phoenix II, Shadowcat, and Nightcrawler.

[illegible]

Captain Britain's wedding

The happiest event in the history of Excalibur also marked its ending. As their teammates watched, Brian Braddock, alias Captain Britain, and Meggan were at long last married, but almost immediately afterward, the team broke up, with Colossus, Nightcrawler and Shadowcat returning to the X-Men.

New Recruits

When they learned that the X-Men had reportedly died in Texas, Shadowcat and Nightcrawler joined with Captain Britain, Meggan, and Rachel Summers, the second Phoenix, in founding Excalibur to carry on Charles Xavier's vision. (As it turned out, Roma had resurrected the X-Men who had died.) Excalibur endured for years but eventually the team dissolved: Shadowcat, Colossus, and Nightcrawler all returned to the US, but Captain Britain still stands guard over the British Isles

[illegible] *Captain Britain, Meggan, Nightcrawler, and Shadowcat* [illegible] *finish. When* [illegible] *became Mother Askani. Others to join Excalibur included the mutant Kylun, the extraterrestrial Cerise* [illegible] *Wedding, a mutant and former British intelligence* [illegible]

APOCALYPSE

ONE OF THE FIRST MUTANTS to be born into the human race, Apocalypse is also one of the mightiest and most dangerous. Endowed with colossal strength and an incredibly long life span, Apocalypse is nearly impossible to kill. He is also a shapeshifter who can transform any part of his body into a living weapon. But Apocalypse's main threat lies in his murderous ideology of the "survival of the fittest." Whereas Charles Xavier and the X-Men work for peace between humanity and mutants, Apocalypse dedicates himself to enslaving or exterminating all but those he considers the strongest. Only then, he believes, can mutants grow powerful enough to dominate the planet under his leadership.

ANCIENT EVIL

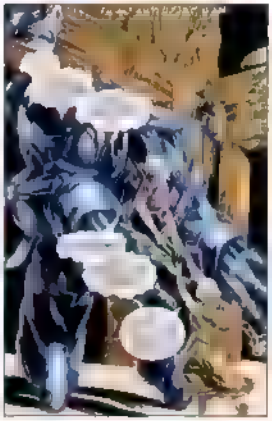
Apocalypse was born nearly five thousand years ago on the outskirts of Egypt. Fearing that the grotesque infant was a demon, his tribesmen abandoned him in the desert. A raider named Baal rescued and adopted the strange baby, seeing in him "a god in the making." Baal named the child "En Sabah Nur" and raised him to believe that only the strong were worthy of survival. Believing that he was destined for greatness, En Sabah Nur labored as a slave in the Pharaoh's city, waiting for his opportunity to overthrow the ruler. But Pharaoh Rama-Tut, who was in reality from the far future and had traveled back in time to find Apocalypse and enslave him, discovered Apocalypse first. When Nur defied Rama-Tut's orders, the Pharaoh cut him down with a weapon from the future. But En Sabah Nur did not die; rather, his full powers were unleashed. Apocalypse proved to be even more evil than the tyrant he intended to overthrow. For millennia he roamed the planet, encouraging civilizations to worship him as a god, and testing their strength by manipulating them into fighting wars of conquest. Today, he has reappeared yet again, believing world conquest to be at last within his reach.

Apocalypse's powers

Apocalypse is a metamorph, capable of altering his shape and physical appearance at will. He can even increase his size and acquire virtually any superhuman physical power. Hence he can turn parts of his body into weapons or change shape to defend himself from harm. In this instance, he has turned his arm into a huge shield to protect himself from the razor-sharp feathers fired from Archangel's organic metal wings.

The rise of Apocalypse

After leading his desert raiders in slaughtering the tribe who had left the infant Apocalypse to perish, Bad rescued the mutant baby and raised him as his son. Bad fielded the Sabah Nur was the being prophesied to make kingdoms bow at his feet. As he was dying, Bad instructed Nur to overthrow the tyrant Kanor Ten Sunrising Ramu [illegible] attacks and rejected by Nephtis the woman he loved. The Sabah Nur turned against humankind. His incredibly long life spent as enabled Apocalypse to appear throughout history in his quest to conquer the world. He will even rule the planet [illegible] future 2,000 years from now.



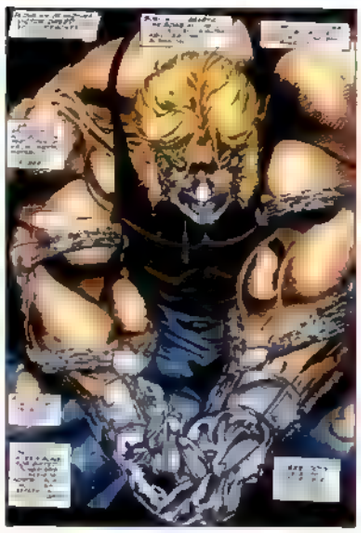
SABRETOOTH

As a child, Creed remembers [illegible] being [illegible] up [illegible] mark [illegible] by his father who considered him a freak

IF WOLVERINE is a man who has struggled to master the animal side of his psyche, then his archenemy is the opposite: one who has surrendered utterly to the beast within. Sabretooth is a mutant predator who sees the rest of humanity as prey for him to hunt, fight, and kill. Even so, Wolverine and Sabretooth have a lot in common. Both are mutants whose injuries heal with incredible rapidity. Both also age very slowly, and due to mental meddling by their former employers, neither knows exactly how old he is. They both have superhumanly acute senses, and they both have a ferocious fighting ability. But Sabretooth has sought for a long time to kill his X-Men counterpart. This vicious mutant was born Victor Creed, but, as with Wolverine, much of his past is a mystery, even to himself.

FORMER PARTNERS

Both men were once partners as special operatives for the CIA, whose "Weapon X" program implanted false memories into their minds and blocked real ones. More recently, Sabretooth has left the CIA and has operated as a ruthless mercenary assassin, notably with Sinister's Marauders. Although the X-Men and X-Factor have tried, no one has succeeded in restraining Sabretooth for long. He continues to stalk the globe, killing for pleasure determined that one day he will finally destroy Wolverine.



Captured by the X-Men

At one point, Professor Xavier held Sabretooth prisoner, hoping he could help the beast overcome his murderous urges. Xavier's attempt failed and Sabretooth broke free. Later, certain U.S. government officials placed Sabretooth in X-Factor, intending for him to be a "sleeper" agent who would kill his teammates if it were considered necessary. He was forced to wear a restraining collar designed by Forge to prevent him from attacking the rest of X-Factor. When Sabretooth succeeded in removing it, he savagely assaulted the other members before escaping.

When Xavier kept [illegible] Sabretooth attacked [illegible] of [illegible] Sabretooth enjoyed [illegible] returned

Brief reversal

Recently, Sabretooth believed he had gained a decisive advantage over Wolverine when his own skeleton was laced with adamantium. At the time, Wolverine had been stripped of his adamantium by Magneto. But Apocalypse, who was intent on forcing Wolverine into serving him, removed the adamantium from Sabretooth's body and bonded the metal to Wolverine's skeleton to make him stronger.

In Team X

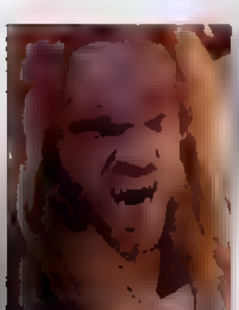
Decades ago, Victor Creed was a member of the CIA's covert strike force, Team X. Among his partners were two other superhuman mutant agents, Logan and David North, now known as Maverick. The CIA's Weapon X program transformed Creed and Logan into the supersoldiers Sabretooth and Wolverine. The program also implanted false memories in Creed's mind, so that he is now uncertain which events really happened.

Under [illegible] years ago, Sabretooth [illegible] Mystique [illegible] become a famous [illegible]

Blood feud

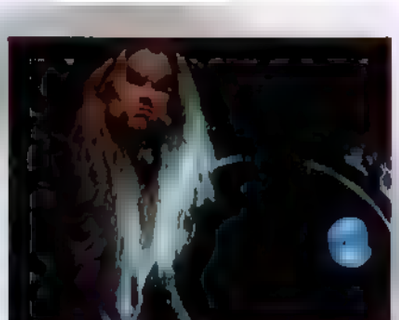
In the 1960s, Logan turned against his CIA partner Creed after Creed murdered a civilian agent they had been sent to rescue. [illegible] brothers' enemies, and every year since then on Logan's birthday, Creed makes an attempt to kill him, even though it was once believed that he was Logan's father. Today, Creed hates Logan more than ever because he resents the fact that Logan has mastered his inner demons, while Creed remains the willing victim of his own.

[illegible] Magneto [illegible] Sabretooth became [illegible] Magneto. [illegible] Sabretooth became [illegible] Sabretooth [illegible] nonmutant victim in New York



ON SCREEN

In the *X-Men* movie, Sabretooth apparently meets and fights Wolverine for the first time in the course of the film. However, since the film version of Wolverine suffers from amnesia, perhaps he only thinks this is their first encounter. During their initial fight, it soon becomes obvious that Sabretooth is a mutant with amazing strength and speed. Indeed, Logan is only saved when a blast from Cyclops' visor knocks Sabretooth off the side of the mountain. Whatever the case, Wolverine and Sabretooth quickly become the same implacable enemies they have always been in the comics.



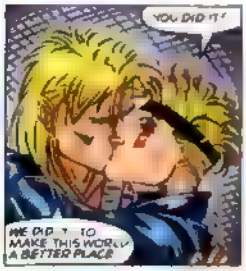
Sabretooth acts as Magneto's henchman throughout the film. We learn that he was sent by Magneto to fetch back either Rogue or Wolverine from that initial fight, and later we see him working as part of Magneto's team when they eventually abduct Rogue. During this second battle with the X-Men, Sabretooth underestimates the power of Storm, only to feel the full fury of one of her lightning bolts which throws him clear through the arrivals board of the Westchester train station. The next time the two meet, Storm is trapped by metal bands inside the Statue of Liberty. Eager for revenge, Sabretooth threatens her with the words "you owe me a scream."

DAZZLER

WHEN TEENAGE Alison Blaire discovered that she was a mutant, she did not decide to become a Super Hero. First, she went into show business. Intent on becoming a singer, Alison realized that she could use her power to transform sound into light to create special effects for her act. She can create different light effects, ranging from a gentle glow to powerful strobe flashes of light or disorientating cascades of color. Using these powers, Alison sought fame and fortune as the Dazzler. Virtually no one knew that she was a mutant, believing instead that her lighting effects were created by technological means. Time and again, however, Alison found herself in situations where she ended up using her powers to battle criminals.

LEAVING SHOWBIZ

When Alison publicly revealed herself to be a mutant, she was blacklisted by the entertainment industry and was only able to find work in low-paying, obscure jobs. She ended up leaving music behind to join the X-Men. Falling in love with Longshot, she went to live with him on his native world and raise their child.



Love for Longshot
After each of them had spent so long as an outcast, Dazzler and Longshot finally found true love and happiness with each other. They left the X-Men and moved to Longshot's home world.

Honing her skills
Through her training with the X-Men, Dazzler perfected her ability to generate and shoot laserlike beams of light from her hands which can slice through almost anything. She has also learned how to create a protective force field of laser light around herself that can deflect or vaporize oncoming projectiles.

Dazzler practices her skills in the X-Men Danger Room

With a little effort Dazzler can even create holograms of human beings and other three-dimensional objects

Sound and light
When the X-Men first met the Dazzler, she was secretly using her powers to create a "dazzling" light show for her stage act. However, guards of the Hellfire Club dressed in battle suits smashed into the club where she was performing. Dazzler used her powers to stun the guards, allowing the X-Men to escape, but only into the clutches of the White Queen!

Curious by Dazzler cannot resist light by using the sound of her own voice

Dazzler as she appeared when the X-Men first met her

LONGSHOT

NOT ONLY IS LONGSHOT one of the few X-Men who is not a mutant, he is not even from Earth! An artificially created humanoid from another dimension, his home world, "Mojoworld," is ruled by ruthless beings called the Spineless Ones. They coerced a scientist named Arize into creating a race of slaves for them. Arize genetically engineered a race of humanoids, hoping that they would rebel against their spineless masters. He endowed some of these humanoids with special abilities, and, as a result, Longshot has superhuman agility and the power to alter probability to give himself good luck.

First words

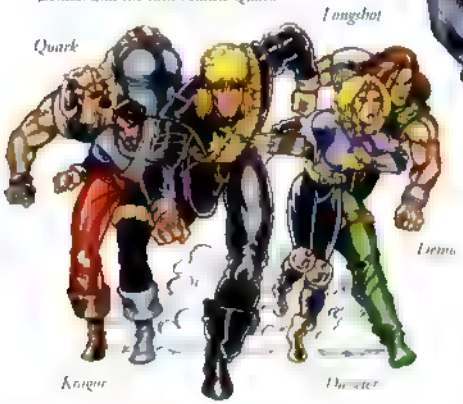
Longshot was created by the scientist Arize to incite rebellion among the slaves on Mojoworld. Longshot's first words to Mojo were, "No one owns me."

REBEL SLAVE

The Spineless One called Mojo, who ruled the planet, forced Longshot to work as a stunt performer in his world's version of the movies. But Longshot broke free and became the leader of a slave rebellion. On one of his journeys to Earth, Longshot joined the X-Men and fell in love with his teammate, Alison Blaire, the Dazzler. Ultimately, Longshot returned to his home world, and with the help of Dazzler and the X-Men, overthrew Mojo. Alison remained there with him, and they have since had a child.

LUCKY POWERS
[illegible] off a stunt like [illegible] be a "long shot" for anyone else but not for Longshot. He has the ability to [illegible] probability [illegible] in his favor and literally making his own luck.

LONGSHOT'S TEAM
Among the rebels who fight for freedom alongside Longshot on Mojoworld are the Dazzler, Kraven Demos, and the rum-headed Quark.



Longshot kills Mojo

After some time spent on Earth with the X-Men, Longshot returned to Mojoworld to lead a rebellion against its ruler, Mojo. The lengthy struggle between Mojo and Longshot finally ended when Longshot impaled the dictator on his sword. However, Mojo's successor, Mojo II, proved to be just as much of a tyrant.

MOJO

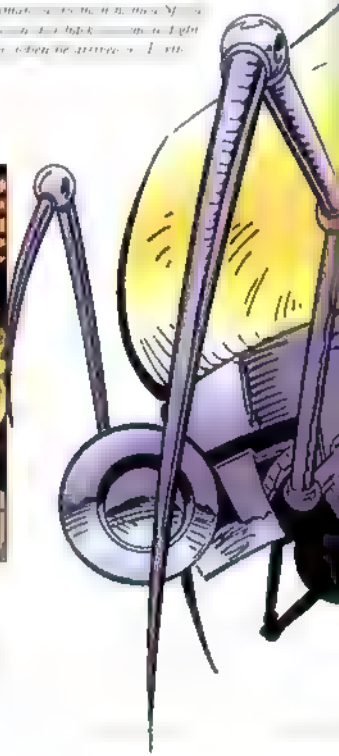
CERTAINLY THE WEIRDEST MEMBER of the X-Men's rogues gallery is Mojo. Mojo hails from Mojoworld, a planet in another dimension. It was there that his race evolved, unable to stand because they did not have backbones. One of them, a scientist named Arize, invented a mechanical exoskeleton that enabled its wearer to stand erect. Most of the race adopted these exoskeletons, but a minority, the "Spineless Ones," disdained using them. It was the latter group who took power, with Mojo as their ruler. Mojo demanded that Arize create a slave race to serve the Spineless Ones. Arize did so, but planned that one day the slaves that he created would rise up against their ruthless masters.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

In Mojoworld's media-oriented culture, the ruler is in charge of producing movies and television shows to keep the masses entertained. Mojo employed one of Arize's genetically engineered creations, Longshot, as a stunt man in his movie productions. But Longshot became Mojo's nemesis, leading other slaves in a rebellion. Mojo first learned of Earth when Longshot escaped to our planet, and he decided to take it over. He also tried to force the X-Men into serving as unwilling actors in his lunatic productions. It looked as if Mojo's career and life were finished when Longshot appeared to kill him. His successor was appropriately named Mojo II, the sequel. However, the original Mojo staged an incredible comeback to wreak more chaos on Mojoworld and on Earth.

The X-Babies

Always looking for a new gimmick for his TV shows, Mojo decided to show his audience what the X-Men would be like if they were cute little toddlers! Hence, Mojo created the X-Babies, genetically engineered children with all the powers of the real mutants. Unfortunately for Mojo, the X-Babies have rebelled against the Spineless One and gave him almost as much trouble as their full-size counterparts.



It's a wrap

Mojo has used the X-Men to boost his ratings on many occasions. Over [illegible] years he has kidnapped several [illegible] and even fitted Psylocke with [illegible] eyes that provides live action feeds of the X-Men's activities back to Mojoworld.

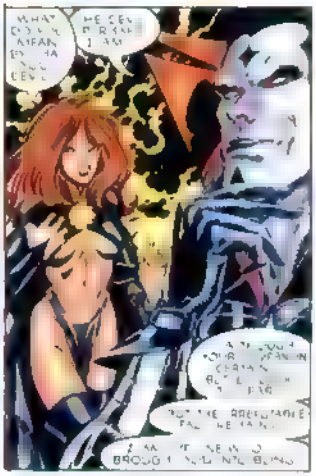
SINISTER

THE YEAR WAS 1859 and the place was London during the reign of Queen Victoria. Charles Darwin had published his revolutionary book, *The Origin of Species*, propounding his theory of evolution. But another scientist, Nathaniel Essex, argued that Darwin had not gone far enough. Essex's son had died due to genetic defects. Now Essex advocated controlling the mating and breeding of human beings as if they were livestock, in order to produce genetically superior children. By this means Essex believed that a superhuman race of mutants would evolve within only a century. Darwin and his fellow scientists were appalled by Essex's proposals. Even Essex's own wife, Rebecca, turned against him. After their second child died at birth, Rebecca denounced Essex on her own deathbed as "sinister." But by then Essex had found a patron in the ancient mutant Apocalypse, who transformed him into a superhuman being. Casting off his former identity, Essex took the name Rebecca gave him: Sinister.

Apocalypse alters the genetic makeup of Nathaniel Essex to create Sinister.

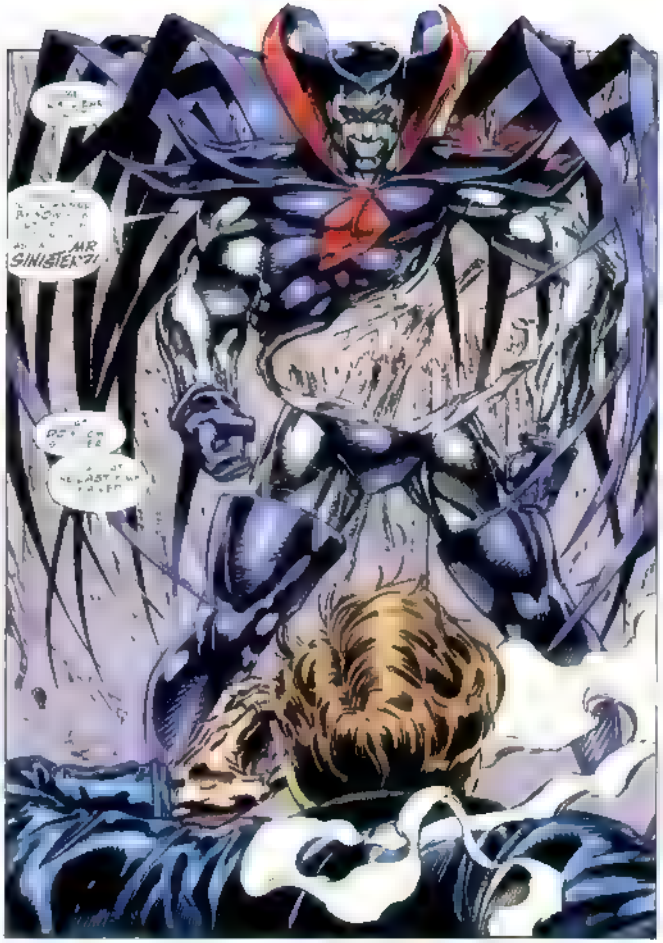
SUMMERS' OBSESSION

Sent back through time by Sanctity, the daughter of Bolivar Trask, Scott Summers and Jean Grey persuaded Sinister to defy Apocalypse. After meeting them, Sinister grew obsessed with their bloodlines. Over the following century the long lived Sinister developed genetic engineering techniques far in advance of those of today's scientists. Because of this, he secretly controlled the orphanage in which Scott Summers was confined as a boy. It was Sinister who also created Madelyne Pryor, Jean Grey's clone, so that she would give birth to Scott's son Nathan. Yet despite his efforts, Sinister has yet to take full control of one of the Summers' mutants.



Goblyn Queen and Sinister

[illegible]



Sinister's powers

[illegible]

[illegible]

Releasing the Legacy Virus

[illegible]

Madripoor lies between Singapore, to the south of Thailand, and the island of Sumatra

MADRIPOOR

WOLVERINE HAS MADE his second home in the Principality of Madripoor, a small island nation in the Indonesian archipelago. Like Genosha, Madripoor was a sanctuary for pirates many years ago. In fact, the pirate ethic has shaped Madripoor's history and society. Its recently deceased ruler, Prince Baran, was descended from the freebooters who settled on the island and founded the country. Just as Madripoor's rulers tolerated piracy in the past, its government today has a relaxed policy toward most business dealings that do not threaten the regime's stability. As a result, Madripoor has become one of the business capitals of the Pacific Rim. However, it is also a notorious center for crime, especially the narcotics trade and slavery. Since Madripoor does not permit other nations to extradite criminals, the island has become a refuge for international crimelords and criminal organizations, who make payoffs to the government to ensure good relations.

To conceal his true identity while in Madripoor, Wolverine goes by the name of Patch, after the eye patch he wears there.

TALE OF TWO CITIES

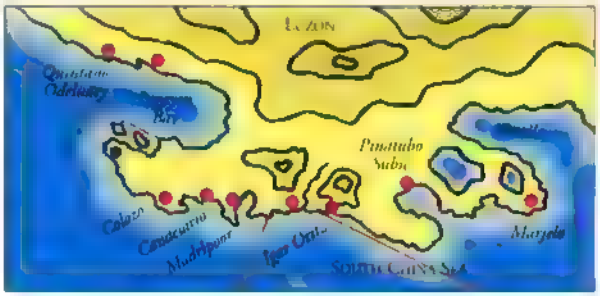
The capital of Madripoor, also named Madripoor, is divided in two. Madripoor Hightown is one of the world's wealthiest areas, populated by the rich and powerful. Its spectacular architecture and advanced technology make it truly a city of the 21st century. However, Madripoor Lowtown is one of the most impoverished areas in the world. Lowtown is a throwback to the lawlessness of a thousand years ago: a place of rampant crime and depravity where anything can be bought. Yet certain places, such as Wolverine's Princess Bar, have a certain rough charm reminiscent of the exotic settings of old movies.

Hightown

Madripoor's Hightown stands on the bluff overlooking the harbor and the Lowtown district. Hightown rivals Tokyo and Hong Kong as one of the leading economic centers of Asia. Its gleaming skyscrapers and luxury hotels stand in sharp contrast to the impoverished slums of Lowtown.

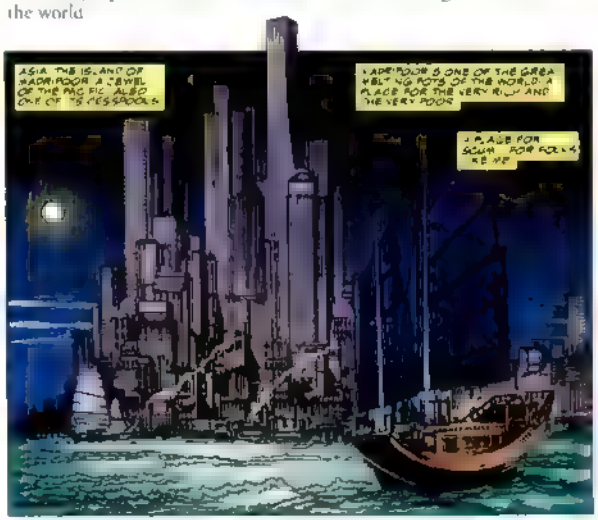
Cast of characters

One of the leading crimelords of Madripoor is Jessan Hoan, better known as Tyger Tiger, who has been Wolverine's ally and lover. Next to her on the right is her rival in crime, the late General Nguyen Ngoc Coy. The next man is Police Chief Fai, also now deceased. On the far right sits Wolverine's friend, detective Jessica Drew.



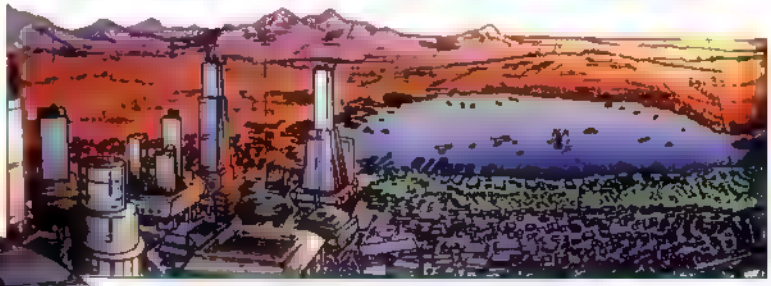
The harbor

Madripoor, the capital city of the Principality of Madripoor, is the only large city on the island. Most of the rest of the island is covered by jungle. So little land is available for farming that Madripoor has always had to depend on imported food. Fortunately, Madripoor is located near one of the major trade routes of the South China Sea. It is a major port with harbor facilities that rank among the finest in the world.



Landmarks of Hightown

Hightown's skyline is dominated by skyscrapers housing major banks and the offices of international trading companies. Here, too, is located the palace of the Prince of Madripoor, said to rival the Palace of Versailles in size and magnificence. Hightown's great hotels are the most luxurious and expensive in the world, catering to visiting businessmen and wealthy tourists. The finest of these is the Sovereign Hotel, with its incredibly costly triplex Imperial Penthouse.

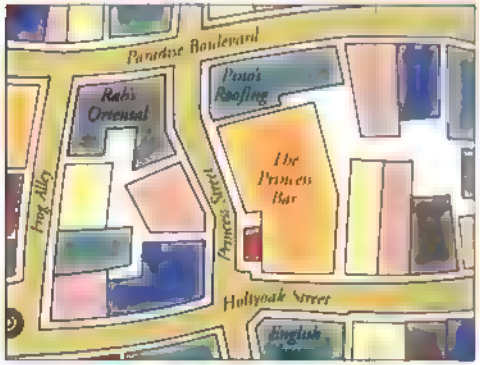


PRINCESS BAR
Amid the squalor of Lowtown, the Princess Bar is an oasis of elegance and style. Frightened by Lowtown's dangerous reputation, tourists avoid the Princess Bar after dark. At night, it becomes a gathering place for local residents from both Hightown and Lowtown. The Princess Bar is also a fine restaurant with cabaret entertainment.

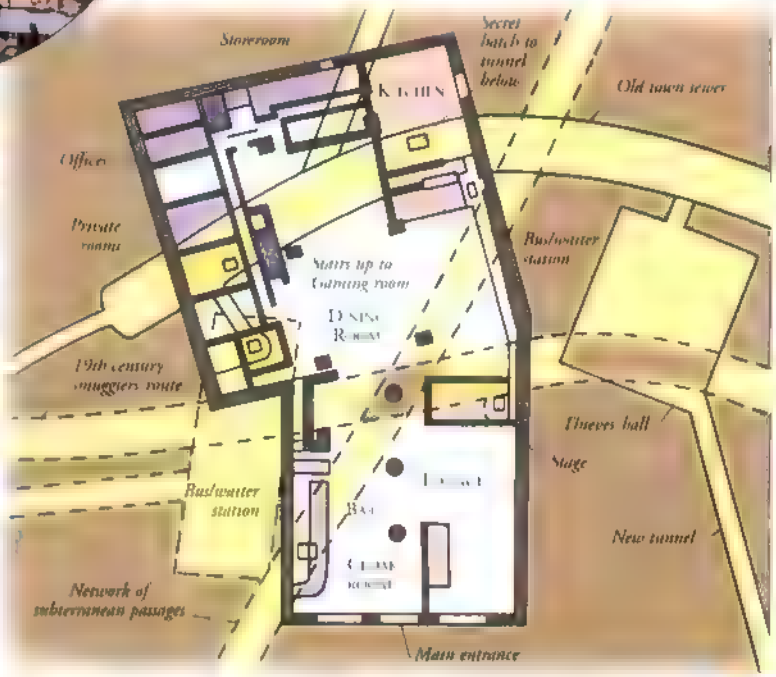
Fat's checks cashed *Barker's Memorial Library*

The men behind the Princess

The bar takes its name from a woman nicknamed "Princess" who was somehow connected with its previous owner, a mysterious Englishman known as O'Donnell, who is now dead. O'Donnell sold a 50 percent interest in the bar to Wolverine, who became his "silent partner." In Wolverine's own words, "In Casablanca, in the good old days everyone went to Rick's, where deals were cut and hearts broken. In Madripoor, it's the Princess Bar, where the intrigue's on a par with the food, an' comes in a lot more variety."



Margies Boarding House



INSIDE THE PRINCESS BAR
The map above shows the Princess Bar's location in Lowtown. To the right is a diagram of the interior of the bar. The most interesting—and secret—feature of which is the network of tunnels beneath the building. Known as the catacombs, they provide a means for escape from the bar.

GENOSHA

Quicksilver and Polaris moved to Genosha to keep a wary eye on Magneto's activities.

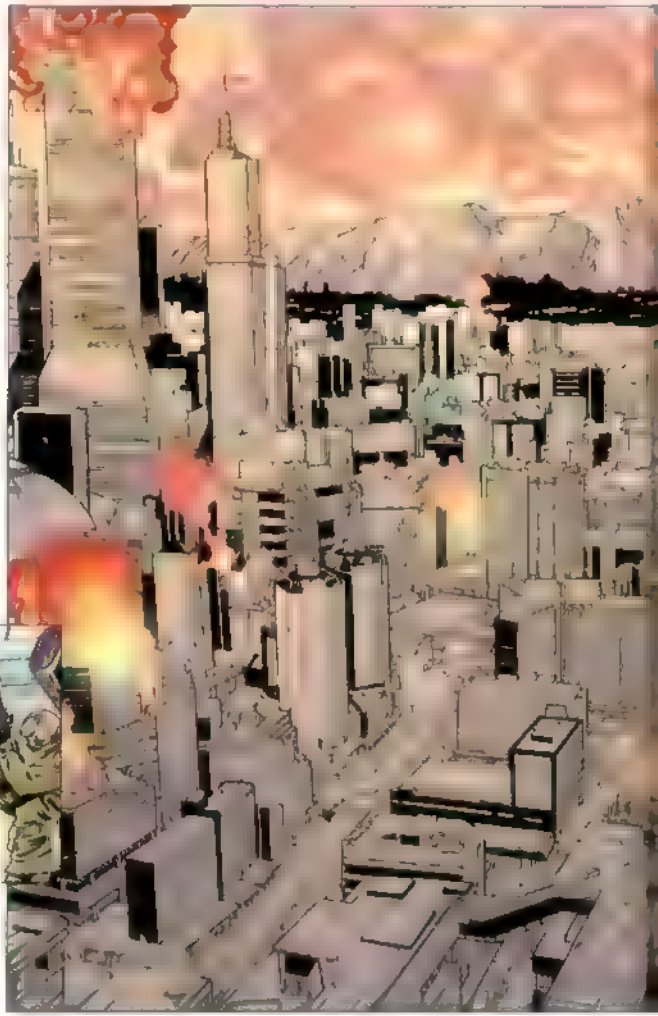
LIKE ENGLAND in William Blake's poem, *Jerusalem*, the island of Genosha is often described as a "green and pleasant land." But beneath its idyllic appearance, Genosha is a sinister country with an economy based on the labor of enslaved mutants. Decades ago, the Sugar Man, a survivor from the "Age of Apocalypse," secretly became the power behind the Genoshan government and gave it knowledge of advanced genetic engineering. The regime examined all Genoshan adolescents for signs of active or latent mutant abilities. Teenagers with such powers were genetically engineered in order to enhance or alter their abilities. These "mutates" were then forced to serve as slaves. Worse still, Cameron Hodge used the Genoshan militia to abduct many X-Men and other mutant heroes for service in the slave economy.

Magneto Rex

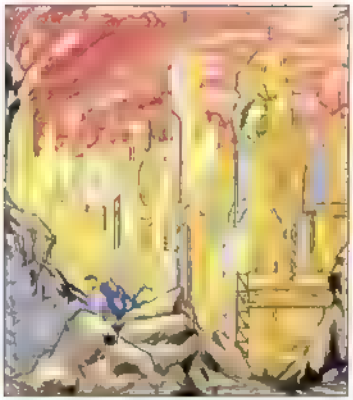
[illegible] would keep Magneto too preoccupied to threaten the world. [illegible] proved an adept [illegible] who quickly [illegible] control over most of his [illegible]

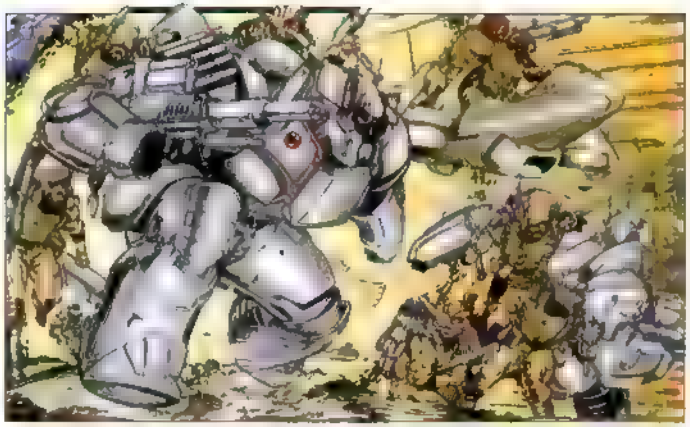
The Genoshan Civil War

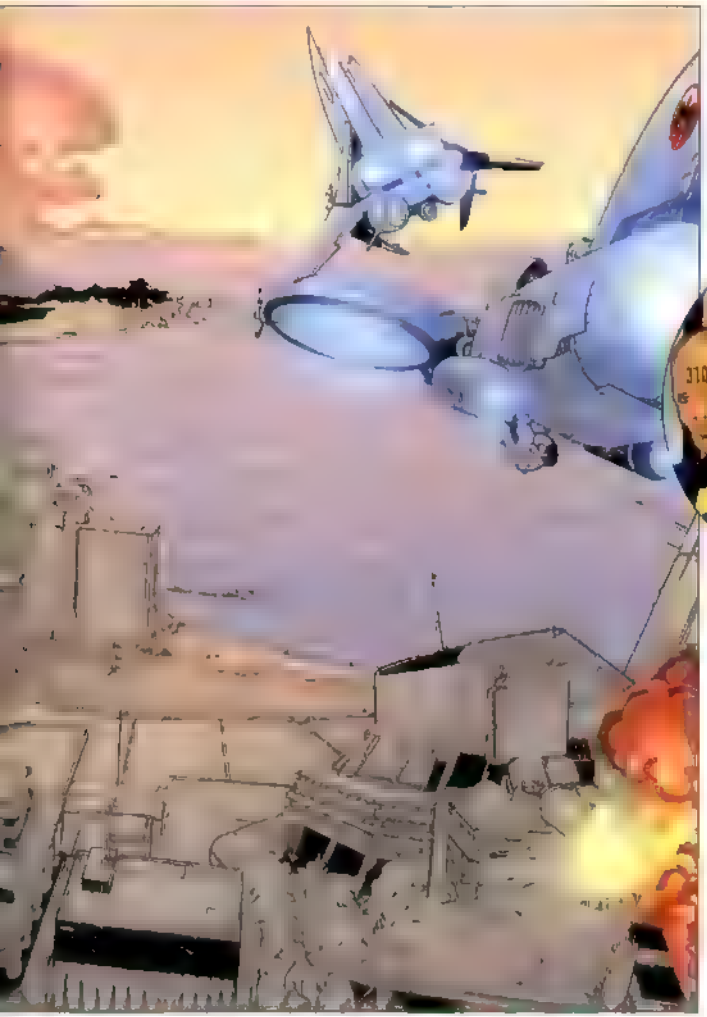
While the X-Men battled Hodge, the Genoshan militia seized control of the government, and a civil war soon erupted between the mutates and the nonmutant humans. Finally, the UN imposed a new regime with Magneto at its head. Though rebel activity persists, Magneto has restored order to most of Genosha



[illegible] by unleashing an electromagnetic [illegible] around the world. Dr. Alda Huxley [illegible] release Magneto by awarding him sovereignty over Genosha in exchange for his promise not to attack other nations. However, Huxley may secretly want to gain power in Genosha for herself.

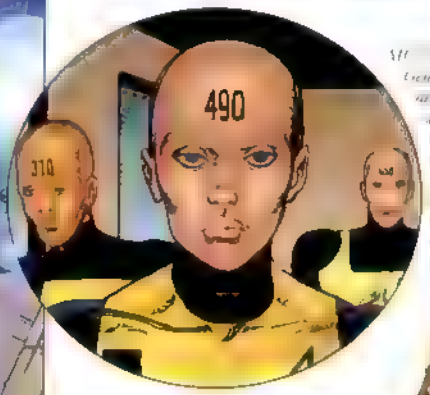






Magistrates

Before Magneto came to power, the Genoshan government operated a notorious military known as the Magistrates. They enforced the law against mutate slaves and hunted downtrodden who attempted to escape. The Magistrates were equipped with highly advanced weaponry, battlesuits and assault vehicles. The oppression was so brutal that when the Magistrates seized control of the government, it sparked a spontaneous [illegible] among the mutates across the island.



[illegible]

The Zealot

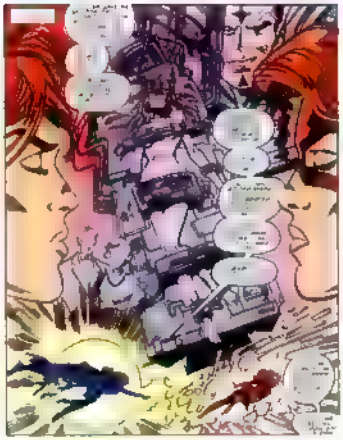
Some Genoshans oppose Magneto's regime. [illegible] known as the Zealot [illegible] here preaches that Magneto is a false messiah who has taken away Genoshan independence. The people of the port [illegible] Cove held out against Magneto's takeover. [illegible]

GOBLYN QUEEN

Scott Summers first met Madelyne Pryor in Alaska, where he was working as a pilot for North Star Airways, the company run by his grandparents.

MADELYNE'S MARRIAGE
Scott and Madelyne were married when he became convinced that he was not Jean Grey. Madelyne's exact look-like

BY SOMEHOW OBTAINING a sample of Jean Grey's cells, Mister Sinister created an adult clone of her. When the original Phoenix committed suicide, Scott Summers believed he had lost Jean forever, unaware that her original body lay in suspended animation in a pod at the bottom of the sea. Sinister grew his clone at an accelerated rate in his laboratory. He named her "Madelyne Pryor" and programmed her with false memories and the desire to fall in love with Cyclops. Sinister then planned for Madelyne to bear a child, which would possess the superhuman genetic potential of both Scott and Jean. The evil mutant would then capture the child and control him as he grew up. The scheme started successfully: Cyclops married Madelyne, and they had a son, Nathan, who was destined to become Cable.

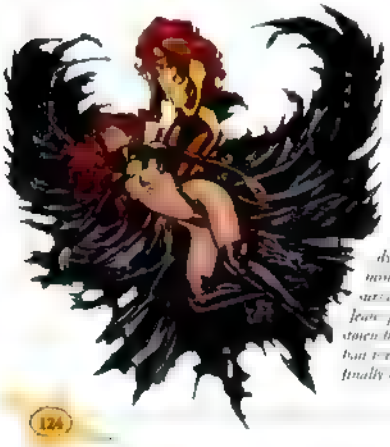


UNNATURAL BIRTH
When Phoenix died, its share of the real Jean's consciousness traveled back to Earth. This part of Jean's psyche eventually reached the clone that Sinister had created and endowed it with consciousness for the first time.

THE RETURN OF JEAN

When the real Jean returned, Cyclops rushed to her side. Madelyne's own psi powers began to emerge, and she took refuge with the X-Men. But then the demon N'astirh sent her dreams which aroused the dark side of her psyche. Her powers fully awakened, Madelyne became the mad Goblyn Queen and attempted to take revenge on Cyclops by sacrificing their son. Instead, Madelyne perished in combat with the original Jean. Recently, Nate Grey created a duplicate of Madelyne, a "psionic shell" in a new physical body, who has become Nate's ally.

Madelyne as the Goblyn Queen



EVIL TWIN
Intent on destroying the X-Men along with herself, the Goblyn Queen unleashed a tremendous psychic force. But her enemies trained themselves, and Pryor became the only victim. In one last attempt to kill Jean, the dying Pryor linked their minds together. Jean survived, and the portion of Jean's psyche which had been stolen by the Phoenix Force and had then awakened Madelyne finally returned to Jean.

JUBILEE

[illegible] brightly colored [illegible] X-Men.

JUBILATION "JUBILEE" LEE, a teenage Chinese-American girl, was born in Beverly Hills, California, where she lived with her wealthy immigrant parents. However, her perfect life was destroyed in a single weekend, when her parents were mistakenly murdered by two hit men. Jubilee was sent to an orphanage, but she ran away and hid in a Hollywood shopping mall, stealing food to survive. When she discovered her mutant powers to create energy "fireworks," she realized she could earn money by using her powers to entertain customers in the mall. Mutant hunters tried to capture her, but she was rescued by four female members of the X-Men: Dazzler, Psylocke, Rogue, and Storm. Intrigued by these mutant women, Jubilee saw them enter a teleportation portal and decided to follow them just before the portal closed.

A New Home

Jubilee found herself transported to the X-Men's temporary base deep in the Australian outback. Not yet trusting the X-Men, Jubilee hid in a cavern beneath their headquarters. Here she stayed for some time and she did not emerge until after most of the X-Men had abandoned the base, and their enemies the Reavers had captured Wolverine. Jubilee helped Wolverine escape, and the two formed a close bond. He eventually sponsored her admission into the X-Men. When Professor Xavier gathered together a new class of teenage mutants, he reassigned Jubilee to this new team of youngsters, known as Generation X.

FIREWORKS

[illegible]

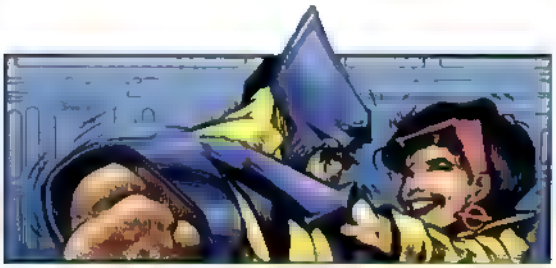
GENERATION X

[illegible]

JUBILEE IN HER GENERATION X COSTUME

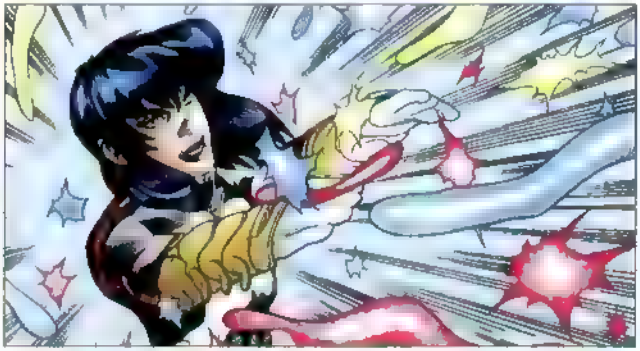
JUBILEE'S POWERS

Jubilee has the mutant ability to generate what she calls "firework." These are globules of energy that follow her mental commands. She can make these globules take various shapes and she can also make them explode. She can temporarily blind a person with sparkles of energy, or create an explosion that is powerful enough to shatter metal objects.



WOLVERINE AND JUBILEE

Belying his gruff demeanor, over the years Wolverine has become a father figure to several youngsters, including his Japanese ward Akiko, Kitty Pryde and most recently, Jubilee. After they first met in Australia, Jubilee accompanied him when he traveled through Asia. After joining the X-Men, Jubilee continued to work with him on his missions away from the team.



X NINETIES

THE X-MEN IN THE 1990s

AS THE 1990s BEGAN, the popularity of *The Uncanny X-Men* continued to soar under the new creative team of writer Chris Claremont and artist Jim Lee. In 1991, Claremont and Lee launched a new companion series, titled simply *X-Men*. Sales for the initial issue reached over seven million, setting a new record that has yet to be broken in American comic books. At the close of 1991, Claremont finally ended his amazing marathon as the *X-Men*'s writer, 17 years after he had begun. A number of writers followed him on the two *X-Men* titles, including Fabian Nicieza, Scott Lobdell, Mark Waid, Steven Seagle, and Joe Kelly. Among the many *X-Men* artists of the 1990s were Whilce Portacio, Brandon Peterson, Adam and Andy Kubert, John Romita Jr., Joe Madureira, Chris Bachalo, Carlos Pacheco, and Alan Davis.

X-Men: The Hidden Years #1 (November 1991)
Cover art by John Byrne and Tom Palmer

The X-Men's fame spread internationally through foreign-language editions published in other countries. There were even new *X-Men* stories created in "manga" style for Japan. Moreover, in 1992, the X-Men moved beyond comics into their first animated television series, which became the top-rated children's series on the Fox network.

The rest of the *X-Men* comic books continued to expand as well. Under artist Rob Liefeld, the New Mutants were reorganized into a commando squad in *X-Force*. The team's popular new leader was spun off into his own series, *Cable*. And now that the New Mutants had "grown up" it was time to start yet another class of teenage mutants, known as *Generation X*, created by Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo. Once its original members had rejoined the X-Men, writer Peter David organized a new mutant team for *X-Factor*, a series that gave way to *Mutant X*. Other characters to receive their own monthly series included Gambit and the assassin Deadpool. There was even a series about mutants of the future called 2099. Perhaps the greatest surprise took place during the "Age of Apocalypse" story line, in which all of the ongoing *X-Men* titles were replaced for three months by different series taking place in an alternate reality!

Rogue #1 (January 1995)
Cover art by Mark Waters and Jerry Ordway

As the 1990s ended, the *X-Men* titles consolidated their classic past with new directions for the future. After a long absence, Chris Claremont returned to write both the *X-Men* and *Uncanny X-Men* titles. John Byrne and inker Tom Palmer collaborated on *X-Men: The Hidden Years*, presenting new stories with the original X-Men set immediately following Neal Adams' issues of two decades before. And the year 2000 brought the first live-action *X-Men* movie, introducing Marvel's mutants to both a new medium and a new century.

X-Force #1 (August 1991) (Cover art by Rob Liefeld)

Cable #1 (May 1993) - First issue of Cable's ongoing series (Cover art by Ann Thibert)

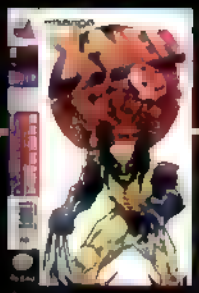
Generation X #1 (October 1994) (Cover art by Chris Bachalo and Mark Buckingham)

Mutant X #1 (November 1998)
Cover art by Tom Rodriguez and Andrew Lepage

1995

X-Man #1
(March 1995)
"Age of Apocalypse"
(Cover art by Steve Skroce)

1998



X-Men: The Manga #1
(March 1998)

1999

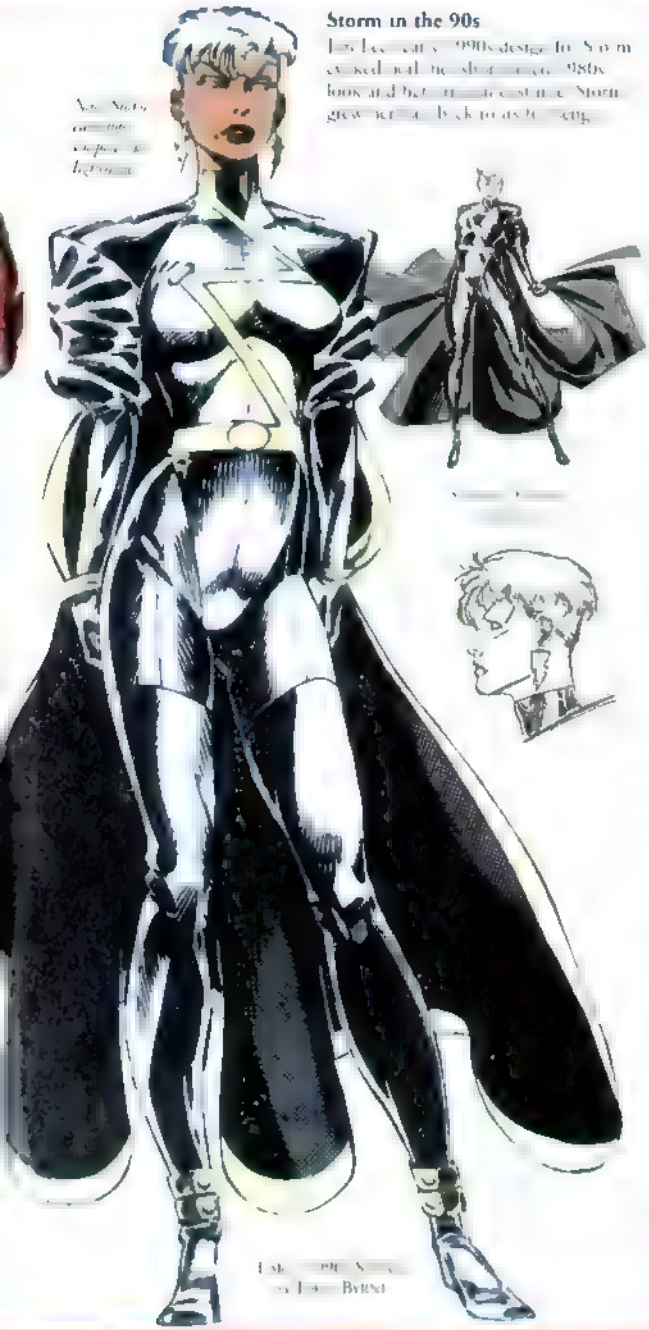
X-Men Children of the Atom #1
(November 1999)
Retelling of the X-Men's origins
(Cover art by Steve Rude)

Omega Red

Making his debut in the fourth issue of the new X-Men series, Omega Red is a [illegible] "superso[illegible]" whose [illegible] weapons are coils made of a metal called carbon alum. These extend from his wrists to ensnare his victims.

Rogue

[illegible] sketch of Rogue [illegible] short-lived [illegible] in 1985 [illegible] Super Heroes [illegible] leather jackets over [illegible]



Storm in the 90s

[illegible]

CHANGING FACES—1990s

Early in the 1990s, the scattered X-Men were reunited as Xavier at last returned to Earth; even his original students allowed X-Factor to dissolve and returned to his side. There were more additions to the X-Men's ranks as the decade progressed: Gambit, Jubilee, Bishop, Cannonball, Joseph, Maggott, Marrow and Dr. Cecilia Reyes.

But there were tragedies as well. Apocalypse infected Cyclops' son Nathan with a lethal "techno-organic" disease. To save the infant's life, Scott let Nathan be transported to the far future. There Nathan grew up to become Cable, who returned to the X-Men's own time and molded the New Mutants into the commando team X-Force. Wolverine's fiancée Mariko was killed, and the bestial side of his personality temporarily resurfaced.

Tensions between humanity and mutankind escalated. Genosha was riven by civil war between humans and their former mutate slaves. There arose a new antimutant political organization, the Friends of Humanity, whose leader, Graydon Creed, might have become President of the United States had he not been assassinated. The US government organized a new X-Factor, but its members rebelled at hunting down other mutants. When Xavier gave in to rage in a new battle with Magneto, the dark sides of both mutants' minds merged and fused into the fearsome psionic menace Onslaught. Onslaught conquered Manhattan before the X-Men and their allies vanquished it. To take action against the "mutant menace," the governments of the United States and other major nations sanctioned "Operation: Zero Tolerance," a paramilitary organization headed by Bastion. This fanatic even held Xavier prisoner until he overreached himself, and the American government shut "Operation: Zero Tolerance" down. Magneto resumed his assaults on the nations of the world, finally, in hopes of appeasing him, the United Nations granted him rulership of Genosha. Worst of all was the creation of an alternate reality, the "Age of Apocalypse," in which Apocalypse took control of North America, "culling" those he deemed to be genetically unfit.

Yet there were still signs of hope for the future. Charles Xavier gathered together another new class of teenage mutants, Generation X. Best of all, Scott Summers and Jean Grey were finally married in a celebratory day on which it seemed as if Xavier's dream had at last become a reality.

CABLE

CABLE IS A MAN of two different times. He serves as a living 'cable', linking the destiny of the turbulent present with that of a war-torn future. Although he is the ultimate warrior, he suffers from a strange 'techno organic' disease that has turned much of his body into organic metal. Possessing vast mutant telepathic and telekinetic powers, Cable must continually divert his mental energies to stem the spread of this disease or it will kill him.

Back when Scott Summers believed Jean Grey was dead, he married her lookalike, Madelyne Pryor, and they had a son, Nathan Christopher Summers. Seeking to destroy the child, Apocalypse infected him with a 'techno-organic' virus. To save his son's life, Scott gave him to a time travelling member of the Askani, who carried Nathan two millennia into the future. Here, the Askani Sisterhood halted the progress of the disease. Mother Askani, the head of the cult, later transported Scott and Jean into her time to raise the child. Once Nathan had grown up, he led the freedom fighters of the Clan Chosen against the New Canaanites.

Spread of the virus

Infected by the evil mutant Apocalypse with a techno-organic virus, the infant Nathan began metamorphosing into a hideous amble of organic metal and circuitry. Whereas Colossus gains even more power by turning into living metal, if the techno-organic virus had ever completed transforming Nathan's body, it would have killed him.

Organic metal arm

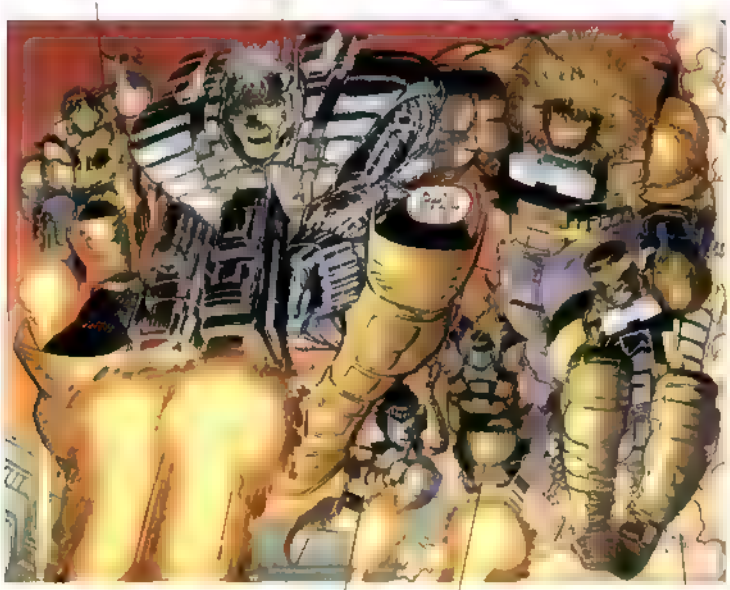
Cable's war spear

Stryfe

When Mother Askani brought Nathan to the future, she had him cloned in case he should die. However, Apocalypse stole the clone, named him Stryfe, and raised the child to be as cruel and ruthless as himself. Literally Cable's evil twin, Stryfe has been his continual nemesis both in the far future and in the present day.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

Eventually, Cable, as Nathan became known, journeyed back to the time of his parents to pursue his primary mission: to stop Apocalypse from conquering the Earth. His archenemy, Stryfe also travelled to our present time. Early on, Cable led a mercenary team called Six Pack, which included his companion Domino. Later, Cable remoulded the New Mutants into a mutant commando team, X-Force. Cable has recently joined the ranks of the X-Men, while continuing his quest to change the future for the better by safeguarding the present.

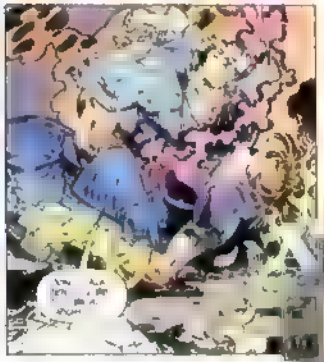


Six Pack

Before founding X Force, Cable led the mercenary squad called Six Pack. They consisted of Kane, a cyborg also known as Weapon X; Domino, Cable's longtime friend and confidante with the ability to adjust the probability of events in her favour; Grizzly, a superhumanly strong fighter; Hammer, the team's hi-tech expert; and George Washington Bridge, a top soldier who is now a leading officer with SHIELD.

Genesis

[illegible] Wolverine temporal [illegible] feral mutant.



Armored Cable

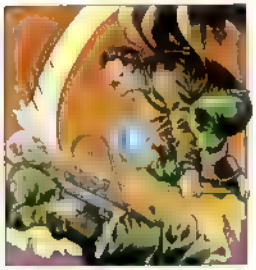
The consummate soldier of the future, Cable sometimes wears so much body armor that he appears more machine than man. Ironically, much of his flesh has [illegible] organic metal, and it is only through sheer willpower that Cable keeps the techno-organic disease with which he is infected from completely transforming and killing him.

Cable and father

The life of Cable is a prime example of the paradoxes of time travel. Born in the present, he was [illegible] two thousand years into the future where he was raised by his time-travelling parents, Scott Summers and Jean Grey. And now Cable has returned to the present where he has teamed up with the X Men, including Scott and Jean. Here, he can fight side by side with his parents—despite having [illegible] a man old enough to be Scott's father!

GAMBIT

UNLIKE OTHER X-MEN, Remy LeBeau, alias Gambit, walks on both sides of the law. Coming from the Cajun culture of New Orleans, Gambit takes pride in his talents as a thief. He is also a mutant with the ability to charge objects with kinetic energy generated by his body. Gambit's trademark weapons are the playing cards he throws: imbued with energy, they explode on hitting their targets. A homeless boy living on the streets of New Orleans, Gambit was eventually adopted by Jean-Luc LeBeau, the leader of the legendary Thieves' Guild. Under his foster father's tutelage, Remy grew up to become a master thief himself. As part of a peace agreement between the Thieves' Guild and their rivals, the Assassins Guild, a marriage was arranged between Remy and Bella Donna Boudreaux. Her brother, Julien, objected to the marriage and challenged Remy to a duel. When he wounded Julien, Remy was forced to leave the city to prevent a guild war. Turning his back on his past, Gambit traveled the world, plying his trade as a thief.



Remy was stolen by the Thieves' Guild, whose leader, Jean-Luc LeBeau, took an interest in the [illegible]. LeBeau placed him in a street gang to learn how to steal, and then adopted the boy and trained him to become the master thief he is today.

LIFE OF CRIME

Gambit's freewheeling life of crime led him to his deepest shame. Under the instructions of Sinister and an as yet unrevealed character, Gambit organized a team of mutants called the Marauders and led them into the Morlocks' tunnels. The Marauders slaughtered the Morlocks, and, despite being unaware of Sinister's deadly intentions, Gambit has been haunted by guilt ever since. He later encountered a young Storm and aided her against the Shadow King. She eventually sponsored Gambit for X-Men membership. He saw this as a chance to atone for his past sins, but hoped that nobody would discover his darkest secret. Inevitably, the X-Men learned of his link with Sinister, and Gambit left the team in shame. He has since made his peace with his teammates and rejoined the group. Gambit still works as a thief, stealing from criminals for the thrill of the hunt

[illegible] his playing cards [illegible] charges with explosive energy and [illegible], which he [illegible] fell opponents and perform [illegible]

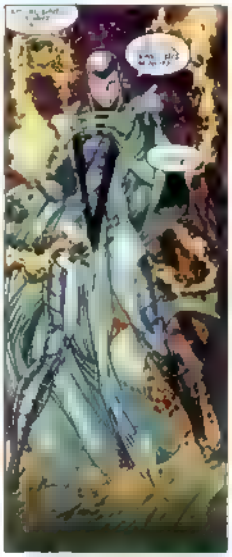
Gambit's powers

Gambit has the ability to tap into the potential energy contained within [illegible] transforming it into kinetic energy. When Gambit touches things or people with kinetic energy and throws them, the target the contact releases the energy explosively on impact. Using his charges cards will [illegible] his powers, but [illegible] turns [illegible] into a deadly weapon by stripping the X's authority.

For better or for worse...

Remy and Bella Donna Boudreaux had loved each other since childhood. His foster father, Thieves' Guild leader Jean Luc LeBeau, arranged their marriage with the head of the Assassins' Guild, Bella Donna's grandfather, to forge peace between the two parties. But when the Thieves' Guild evicted Remy, Gambit left Bella Donna behind refusing to let her share his punishment.

[illegible] Gambit [illegible] power [illegible] ability to [illegible] kinetic energy. [illegible] Rogue [illegible] Guild and become Gambit's enemy.



Gambit and Rogue

Gambit and Rogue were passionately in love, but several obstacles stood in their way. She cannot come to the mutant power by absorbing the memories and abilities of anyone whose flesh she touches. Any physical contact with Gambit would render him unconscious. When Rogue at last to ask him, she discovered Gambit's deep guilt over his role in the massacre of the Morlocks.

Gambit in the future

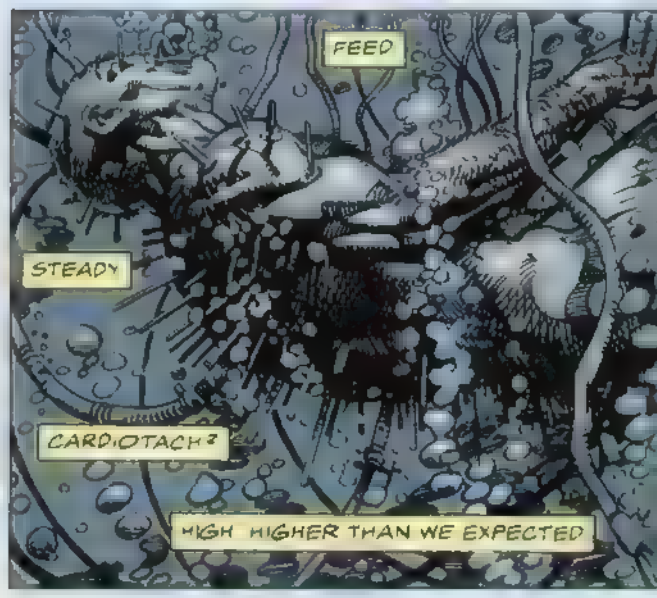
Over 70 years from now, in the alternate future time line in which Bishop was born, he knew Gambit as the frail and aged man known as the Witness. Said to be the last survivor of the original X-Men, the aged Gambit had witnessed the betrayal of the X-Men by one of their own members. After coming to the X-Men's own time, Bishop suspected that Gambit himself had been the traitor until he learned how Xavier's mind had spawned the entity known as Onslaught.

WEAPON X

WOLVERINE HAS CLAWS because he is a mutant, but he was not born with the adamantium that makes his skeleton virtually indestructible. Adamantium is an artificial alloy of iron, and it was infused into his body by the scientists of the Weapon X project. Under the name Logan, Wolverine had already been working for the CIA alongside fellow agents like Victor Creed, the future Sabretooth. The CIA established Project X in order to convert men into "supersoldiers" with unusual abilities. The project facilities were set up in Windsor, Canada, through a secret agreement with the Canadian government. Presumably Logan was chosen for the project because the CIA knew he was a mutant whose superhuman healing ability would enable him to survive the process. Logan was abducted and brought to the project laboratory. Here, in a process called "Experiment X," molecules of adamantium were bonded to Logan's skeleton. But the process traumatized Logan, leaving him with the mentality of a savage beast. After undergoing brutal tests, Logan turned against his captors and escaped into the wilderness.

The Scientists

Experiment X was overseen by a ruthless scientist known simply as the Professor. Little is known about this man, except that he was working for some unknown power and used dubious means to acquire his staff. One of these was Dr. Miriam Cornelius, who was wanted by the FBI for questioning regarding so-called "mercy killings." The Professor blackmailed Cornelius into joining the Experiment X staff and oversaw the adamantium bonding process. Their meek assistant, Carol Hayes, came from NASA. She proved to have a conscience and was appalled by what her superiors did to Logan. Several years later, the Professor was killed by another victim of his experiments.



The Experiment

Logan was exposed to three agents which needed strong gases to stabilize them. Once the process was finished, Logan would thank to his mutant powers, begin to grow back rapidly. Logan was immersed in a tank of toxic yellow fluids. Then, the project scientists infused adamantium molecules into his body, bonding them to the organic molecules which make up his bones. It was during this process that the Professor and the other scientists discovered that Logan was in fact a mutant.

Hand of a killer

The bonding process proved a success, and Logan's skeleton was infused with molecules of adamantium, as this image of Logan's arm, fist, and claws shows. However, the process affected Logan's psyche, unleashing the bestial side of his character and turning him into a feral, ferocious killer.

Though at a cost [illegible] Logan [illegible] could [illegible] every [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible]

At the instigation of the Professor, Logan was taken with many baneses, which [illegible] the continuing increase [illegible] of 10 miles

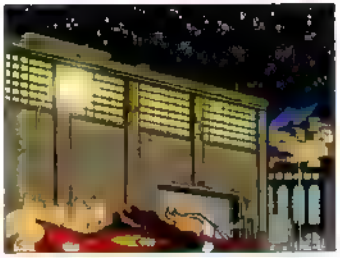
The Professor [illegible] Wolverine [illegible] Wolverine [illegible] tormentors [illegible] the Professor [illegible] Rhodes [illegible] Logan recognized [illegible] his enemy and would not [illegible]

The tests

The Professor and Dr. Cornelius subjected the new Weapon X to a series of trials by combat, putting him against wolves, a bear, and even a tiger. Each time, armed and armored save for his claws and his sheer ferocity, Wolverine triumphed. Once he had escaped from the Project X compound, Logan roamed the wintry forests living as a wild animal. Eventually, he was found by James and Heather Howlett, under whose care he regained his human intellect. But Project X also intended that its subjects be unaware of who they had become and what they had been used to do. Hence, the project had wiped from much of Logan's memory and implanted other false memories instead. As a result, even though Wolverine learned about the project years later, he still does not recall much of his past.

X-FORCE

AS A TEAM, the New Mutants were in severe decline. Their founder, Charles Xavier, was in space with the Starjammers; their teacher, Magneto, had abandoned them and returned to his life as an outlaw, and several of the students were gone. It was then that Cable, the mutant warrior from the future, intervened. Xavier had intended only to train the New Mutants in the use of their powers; although they fought various adversaries, they did not actively seek them out. Cable, however, believed that he had to prepare these young men and women for what he saw as the coming war against their enemies. He intended to mold the New Mutants into the soldiers of his new team, X-Force. His original roster included New Mutants Cannonball and Boom Boom. In addition were Warpath, the brother of the deceased X-Man Thunderbird, Shatterstar, a warrior from the future of Longshot's world, and Feral, a catlike Morlock.



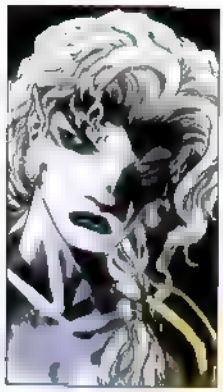
Cannonball

Domino

Moonstar

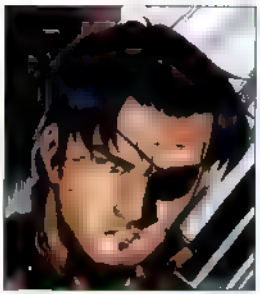
MUTANT COMMANDOS

The youngsters of X-Force were also joined by an adult Domino, Cable's former partner from his days as a mercenary. Other young mutants joined over time including former New Mutants Sunspot, Rictor, and Moonstar, Banshee's daughter Siryn, the Morlock Caliban, and Jesse Aaronson, alias Bedlam. Cannonball was promoted into the X-Men, but he felt uncomfortable in the older team and returned to X-Force. Cable himself finally left the group to pursue his own interests, and the X-Force members traveled across the United States, settling in San Francisco. Recently, they gained a new leader, former British intelligence operative Peter Wisdom, who has gone even further than Cable in turning X-Force into a commando squad.



Copycat

The Domino who first joined X-Force was not really Domino. She was actually Vanessa [illegible] a [illegible] shapeshifter [illegible] known as Copycat. She had been blackmailed [illegible] Cable's new team [illegible] Tyler. Copycat also [illegible] distinction of being Deadpool's former girlfriend. Appropriately for a shapeshifter, Vanessa now works as an actress.

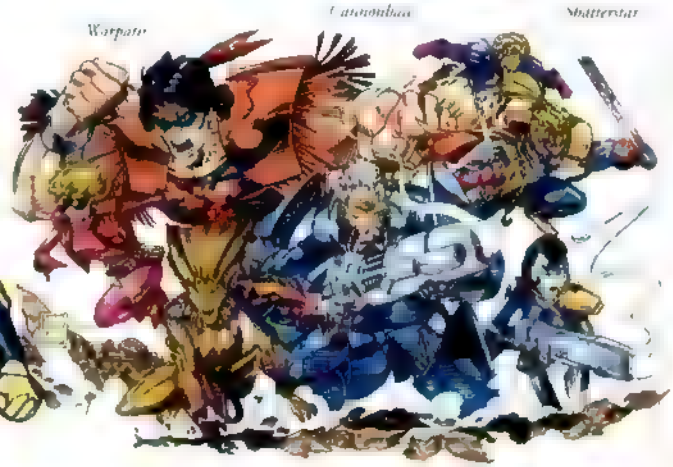


Peter Wisdom

Peter Wisdom was an operative for Black Air [illegible] British [illegible] he quit [illegible] Being [illegible] the Super Hero team [illegible] where he met and fell in love with Kitty Pryde. After [illegible] and Kitty split up, Wisdom left Excalibur and England and took over as leader of X-Force. He intends to use this new team to [illegible] crimes against humanity perpetrated by the intelligence community and others.

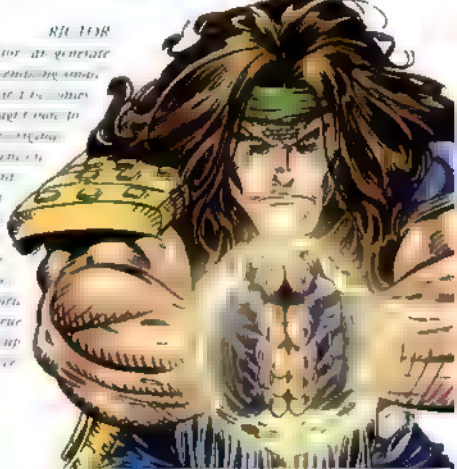
Cable's team

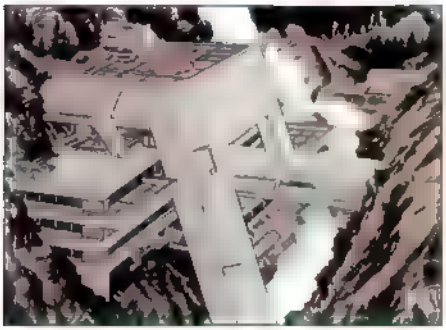
X-Force's original line-up included Boom Boom, Cable, Cannonball, Domino, Feral, Shatterstar and Warpath. Feral later became X-Force's enemy and was imprisoned for murder. Trained to be a master swordsman on Mojoworld, Shatterstar's spirit now inhabits the body of an Earthman. James Proudstar, alias Warpath, is the younger brother of the original Thunderbird and has the same mutant abilities. At first seeking vengeance on the X-Men for his brother's death, James joined the Hellions as Thunderbird II. He later joined X-Force, taking the name Warpath.



RICTOR

[illegible]





X-FACTOR [illegible]
Originally, X-[illegible]

X-FACTOR II

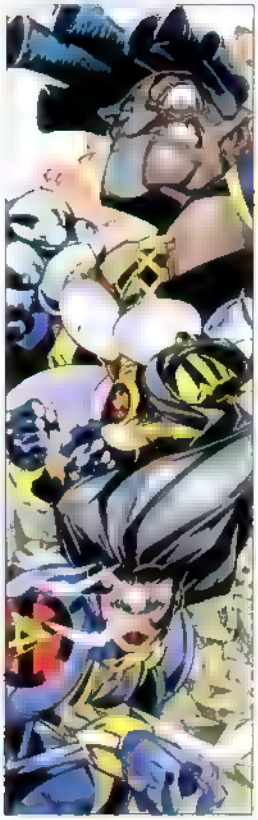
WHILE CHARLES XAVIER traveled into space with the Starjammers, the original X-Men founded the first X-Factor as a means of carrying on his legacy. When Xavier came back to Earth, the five founders returned to the X-Men, and the original X-Factor ceased to exist. However, Dr. Valerie Cooper, a US government official, decided to organize a new team under that same name. This X-Factor would be a team of mutants who would go on special missions for the government. Cooper believed that the new X-Factor could create a positive public image for mutants. Xavier and Cooper persuaded veteran X-Man Havok to lead the team. Among Cooper's other recruits were Havok's longtime girlfriend Polaris, the former New Mutant Wolfsbane, and Quicksilver. Another member was Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man who could create duplicates of himself at will. Finally, there was Guido Carosella, the former bodyguard of the mutant rock star Lila Cheney, who took the unpretentious code name "Strong Guy." The mutant inventor Forge briefly replaced Cooper as the team's government liaison, before joining X-Factor himself.

Forge's team
Forge found himself leading an unusual X-Factor roster. The founding members were gone except for Polaris. The strangest new recruit was Shard Bishop, a deceased sister from the future who had been resurrected as a living hologram. Val Cooper's superiors insisted that X-Factor take on three other new members. One was Wildchild, a veteran of Alpha Flight. Possessing animalistic agility, senses, and claws, Wildchild at times struggled to overcome his bestial side. The outlaw Mystique was given an implant that restricted her morphing powers. The government placed Sabretooth in X-Factor as a "sleeper agent."

CHANGING FACE

Before long, the founding members left, and new recruits arrived, including Mystique, Sabretooth, Shard, and Wildchild. When X-Factor members realized that the government was using them to hunt down other mutants, they faked their own deaths and went underground. Disillusioned, Havok pretended to turn outlaw in order to stop the schemes of Dark Beast. Later, he became leader of three mutants from the future: Archer, Fixx, and Greystone. Havok was attempting to put X-Factor back together when he was hurled into the alternate reality of "Mutant X." With Havok gone, X-Factor was no more.

VALERIE COOPER
Dr. Valerie Cooper is a member of the US Congressional Subcommittee on Mutant Affairs and supervised the operation of Freedom Force, the sister team of Cable's X-Force. Cooper served as the government liaison to X-Factor.

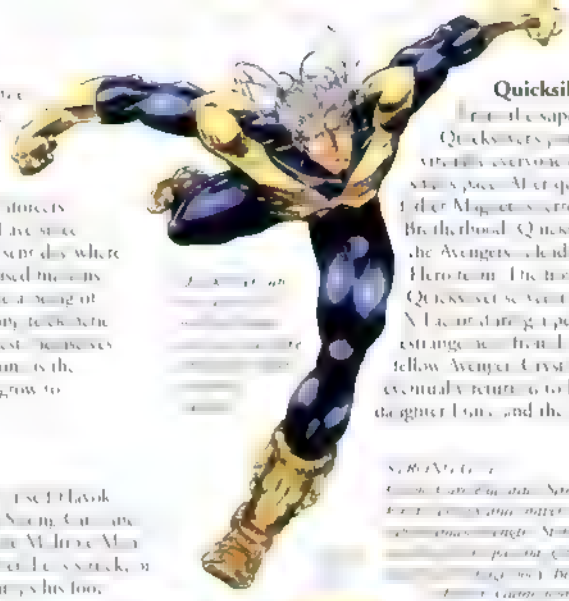


Archer, Greystone & Fixx

These three mutants [illegible] from the same future as Bishop. All three were XSE agents who became disillusioned with the security force and formed their own group, Xavier's Underground Enforcers (XCE). The spirits of the three have since traveled back in time to the present day where they occupy the bodies of deceased mutants. Archer has the ability to become a being of pure energy, while Fixx has strong telekinetic and psychic abilities that manifest themselves as [illegible] Greystone is the strongest of the three and can grow to gigantic proportions.

Founding members

Xfactor [illegible] original roster [illegible] Havok, Polaris, Quicksilver, Wolfsbane, Strong Guy and Multiple Man. [illegible] Multiple Man creates a duplicate of himself when he is struck, or even if he stops his finger or stamps his foot, he can [illegible] his doubles back into himself [illegible]



Quicksilver

[illegible] superhumanly fast. Quicksilver's [illegible] view virtually everyone else moves at a [illegible] pace. After quitting his father Magneto's terrorist Brotherhood, Quicksilver joined the Avengers, a leading Super Hero team. The [illegible] Quicksilver [illegible] Xfactor during a period of estrangement from his wife and fellow Avenger, Crystal, [illegible] eventually returned to her, their daughter Luna, and the Avengers.

STRONG GUY
[illegible] Strong Guy [illegible] Strong Guy [illegible] Multiple Man [illegible] energy [illegible] Multiple Man [illegible] Multiple Man [illegible] Multiple Man [illegible]

BISHOP

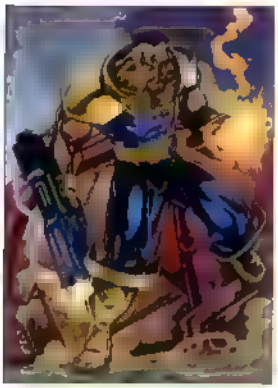
THE MUTANT KNOWN only as Bishop never dreamed that someday he would be a member of the X-Men. Born half a century from now, Bishop grew up admiring the long-dead X-Men as heroes from legend. As a teenager, he discovered his own mutant ability to absorb kinetic energy and redirect it through his hands as a concussive force. Bishop became a lawman, hoping to follow in the X-Men's footsteps. But through an amazing twist of fate, he became an X-Man himself. Bishop and his sister Shard were born in a mutant prison camp in an alternate future ruled by the Sentinels, who were finally overthrown. Bishop and Shard were inspired by the stories their grandmother told them about Xavier's now-legendary team of mutant heroes. After she died, Bishop and Shard were protected by her friend Hancock, until he was murdered by mutant criminals. Bravely, the teenage Bishop used his newly emerged powers to fight back. The two XSE agents who finally stopped the murderers were so impressed by Bishop that they invited Bishop and Shard to become cadets in the XSE. Eventually they became full officers.

Back in Time

When Trevor Fitzroy and a number of other mutant outlaws escaped through time into the past, Bishop and his XSE partners, Malcolm and Randall, followed. Some of the outlaws killed Malcolm and Randall, and Bishop found himself stranded in the present day. To his astonishment, Bishop not only met the X-Men, who were his childhood heroes, but was even inducted into their ranks by Charles Xavier himself. Since then, Bishop has not only served in the X-Men, but has also had adventures in the distant Shi'ar Galaxy and even visited a future time far beyond his own.

Bishop's weapons and powers

[illegible]



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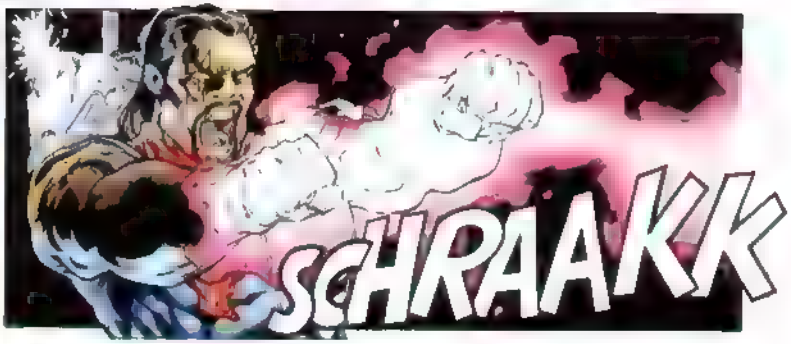
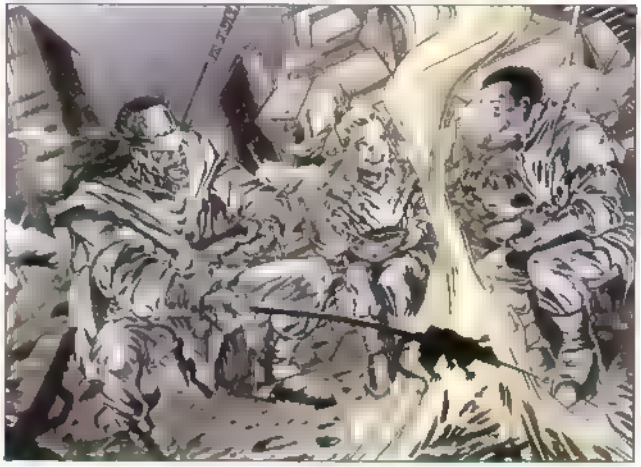


Hancock and Shard

Bishop and his sister Shard were [illegible] Hancock. However, Hancock was [illegible] Billhoy and Halftrack. Amazon and Reeves [illegible] XSE agents who stopped the two murderers were so impressed by Bishop's fighting skills that they offered him a position in the XSE as a leader.

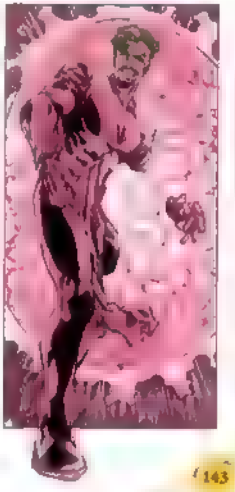


Xavier Security Enforcers

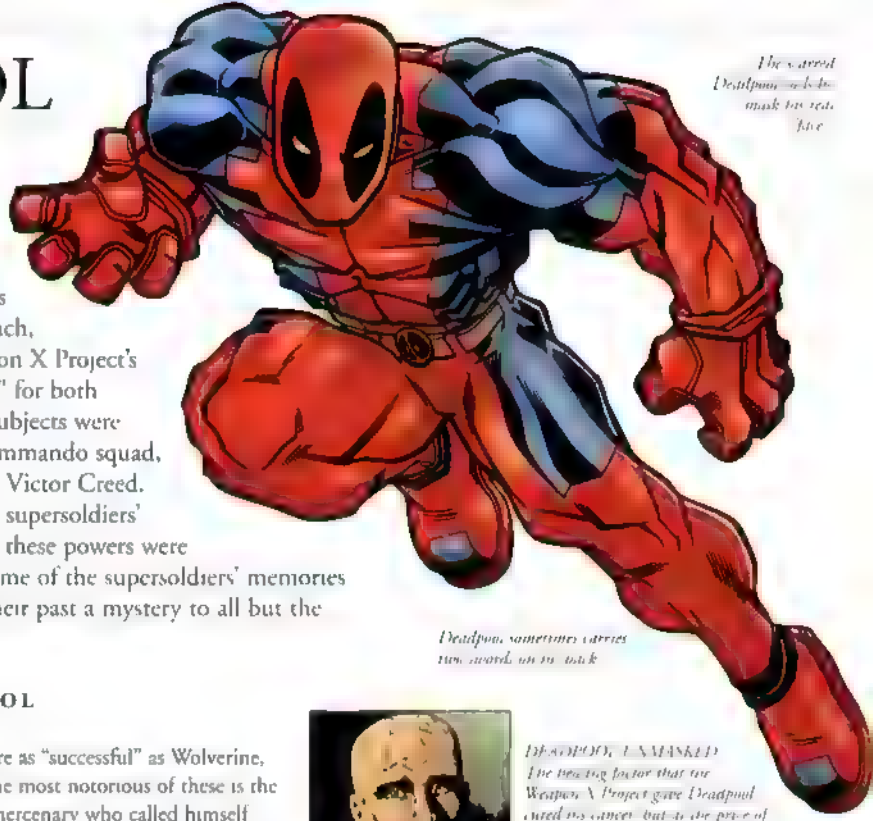
[illegible]

Fitzroy

[illegible] of Bishop [illegible] XSE [illegible] Bishop [illegible] Bishop [illegible] the Chronomancer.



DEADPOOL



The scarred Deadpool sells his mask his real face

WOLVERINE IS NOT the only victim of the experiments of the Weapon X Project. As a joint operation by the CIA and the Canadian government's Special Weapons Development Branch, known as Department K, the Weapon X Project's purpose was to create "supersoldiers" for both governments. Among the project's subjects were the members of the CIA's special commando squad, Team X, which included Logan and Victor Creed. The project intended to suppress its supersoldiers' memories of their own powers until these powers were needed. Hence, it interfered with some of the supersoldiers' memories and implanted false ones, making their past a mystery to all but the government agencies involved.

Deadpool sometimes carries two swords on his back

DEADPOOL

Not all of Weapon X Project's subjects were as "successful" as Wolverine, and many others were deemed failures. The most notorious of these is the character known as Deadpool. He was a mercenary who called himself Wade Wilson, his real identity is unknown. Discovering that he had a virulent form of cancer, Wade volunteered for the Weapon X Project, hoping that it could cure him. However, the project consigned Wilson along with other subjects of failed genetic experiments to a facility headed by Dr. Killebrew. This evil scientist used these "failures" as test subjects for his cruel experiments. The victims took bets in a "deadpool" on which of them would survive the experiments the longest. During his time at Dr. Killebrew's facility, the healing factor that the Weapon X Project had given Wade was activated by his passion for vengeance against his captors. He escaped from the project and became a costumed mercenary, calling himself Deadpool. It was later revealed that Wade Wilson was not Deadpool's real name, merely an identity he had stolen from a man he thought he had killed. The real Wade Wilson had, in fact, survived and returned to become Deadpool's nemesis T-Ray.

DEADPOOL'S YOUTH
As with many Weapon X subjects, very little is known of Deadpool's past. His real name might have been Jack, a young hoodlum who grew up to become one of the world's toughest mercenaries.

DEADPOOL UNMASKED
The healing factor that the Weapon X Project gave Deadpool cured his cancer, but at the price of permanently scarring his face and entire body. The project also gave him the ability to regenerate entire severed limbs and body organs, even including his heart.

THIS JOKE WILL KILL YOU!
Not [illegible], Deadpool continually chatters away in a stream of [illegible] patter full of jokes and references to pop culture trivia, whether he's by himself or in the midst of a life-or-death battle.

OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE WEAPON X PROJECT

WHEN LOGAN JOINED the commando squad known as Team X, he found himself teamed up with a number of other mutants. In addition to Victor Creed, there was David North, who took the code name Maverick, John Wraith, who became known as Kestrel, and the mysterious Silver Fox. Based in Alberta, Canada, Team X was sent on covert missions around the world.

Victor Creed — John Wraith

David North — Logan

HEMA

Logan, the future Wolverine, and Victor Creed, the future Sabretooth, were both members of the CIA's psi-operatives squad Team X. Another member, John Wraith, was named Kestrel, an expert sniper. The CIA also recruited a Canadian mutant named Christopher Nord into Team X. Nord had made an impressive reputation as a freedom fighter in Nicaragua, fighting the Contras. On joining Team X, he changed his name to David North.

Team X ceased to exist as a unit in the 1960s.

KANE

Cameron Kane used to be a member of a private mercenary team, Six Pack. Later, Kane succeeded Wolverine as the new Weapon X working for Department K. He had been converted into a cyborg, part man and part machine. When he was transported into the 19th century by Cable, Kane was fitted with cyborg parts that attached the original to the century of their arrival to the present.

MAVERICK

After leaving Team X of Canada, David North became an unknown mutant known as Maverick. He was a mutant with the power to absorb thermal energy and to channel it with his hand. He was initiated by mercenary Cameron Kane, recently being infected with the Legacy Virus. He used his power once should he need a quick or temporary escape.

Maverick died by the same age-suppression Hydra as Wolverine and Sabretooth.

SILVER FOX

Wolverine remembers being in a secret underground facility called Silver Fox, who was apparently murdered by Sabretooth. Decades later, Silver Fox turned up alive as a member of Team X. However, Wolverine does not know whether these memories are real or false ones implanted by the Weapon X Project.

Since Fox betrayed the members of Team X, and went on to join the Silver Fox aggravation, Hydra.

MOUNTAIN BASE
For a time, the X-Men of 2099 took over a [illegible] of New Mexico [illegible] belonged to [illegible] Mayor Zoo [illegible], they became the protectors [illegible] a safe haven for mutants. When Halo [illegible] by the rising [illegible] the X-Men led a [illegible] the Savage Land.

X-Nation 2099
X-Nation is a team of extraordinary teenage mutants who live in the Xavier Shelter for Indigent Children, an orphanage in Halo City. There they are tutored by Cerebra. Among them is Clarion, who turns sound into force; December, possibly a relative of Emma Frost; the cyborg Nostromo; Twilight, who controls anything within her "sphere of influence"; the giant Up [illegible] shapeshifter Willow; and Wulff, who has claws.

X-MEN 2099

IN THE TERRIFYING alternate reality of 2099 AD, powerful corporations dominate every aspect of life in America—and mutants are not tolerated. A generation of mutants was almost entirely wiped out a few years prior, in the Great Purge. The few survivors were turned into outcasts by the corporations. But amid such persecution there arose a messianic figure, a mutant and former criminal named Xi'an Chi Xan. Known as the Desert Ghost, this mutant had the power both to punish and heal. With his left hand he could disintegrate matter, but with the touch of his right hand he could heal injuries. Inspired by the life of Charles Xavier, Xi'an intended to reunite his scattered people, the mutants. To this end he gathered together a new team of X-Men. Prominent among them was Shakti Haddad, code named Cerebra, who had the psionic ability to sense the presence of other mutants, much like Xavier's Cerebro device.

MUTANTS OF 2099 AD

Xi'an's mutants are a varied bunch. Krystalin can create crystals from thin air. Meanstreak can move at superhuman speed. Metalhead's body takes on the properties of any metal he touches. Timothy Fitzgerald's body releases absorbed energy that makes him glow and his skeleton become visible—hence his name, Skullfire. Bloodhawk can change at will into a red-skinned humanoid with batlike wings that enable him to fly. Although he initially refused to join Xi'an's X-Men, he became their ally.

Bloodhawk *Krystalin* *Cerebra* *Skullfire* *Metalhead* *Cerebra* *Meanstreak*

Battle charge
The X-Men of 2099 faced bizarre adversaries such as the Freakshow, grotesque products of failed experiments in genetic engineering. Brimstone Love and his Theater of Pain enslaved human beings and tormented them for their clients' entertainment. Weirdest of all was the shapechanger Halloween Jack, a psychotic genius who made Las Vegas his personal domain.

PHALANX

THE X MEN have never encountered an alien race more deadly than the Phalanx. These techno organic beings—creatures whose nervous systems are composed of organic circuitry—were actually created on Earth by human scientists. Their bodies are structured like machinery, and the entire race has a single, collective consciousness. The Phalanx infect people with the transmode virus, which converts them into techno-organic beings and assimilates them into the Phalanx collective. This evil race was born when scientists experimented on the remains of the New Mutant Warlock, who was a member of the Technarchy, a society of techno organic beings. Technarchs feed by using the transmode virus to convert organic life forms into Phalanx and then draining their life away.

Interstellar Infection

Scientists originally infected volunteers with the transmode virus in a bid to create techno organic versions of the Sentinels. However, the result of these experiments—the Phalanx—wanted to convert all life on Earth into techno-organic beings. Since the Phalanx could not assimilate mutants due to mutants' genetic structure, they instead tried to kill them. The X Men succeeded in destroying most of the Phalanx once but they have since spread into space, threatening the Shi'ar empire.

Warlock after being killed by Cameron Hodge [illegible]

Phalanx on Earth

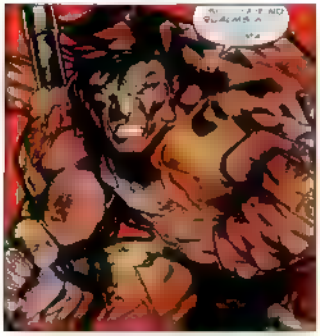
The Phalanx's aims on Earth were [illegible] by a number of human [illegible] Dr. Stephen Lang, who had [illegible] the Sentinels, was [illegible] Phalanx as a means for [illegible] than mutants and then to eradicate [illegible] into the [illegible] sister Sara.

Phalanx in space

An army of Phalanx once attacked and conquered the Throneworld of the Shi'ar Empire, making its ruler, Lilandra, their prisoner. Gladiator of the Shi'ar Imperial Guard sought the help of the X-Men who traveled to the Throneworld in a Shi'ar starship. One of the X-Men, Beast, devised a means of tearing the machine parts of the Phalanx from their [illegible] parts, and thus destroyed them.

GENERATION X

THE PHALANX once sought to capture members of the "next generation" of teenage mutants to use them as test subjects. By experimenting on their young captives, the Phalanx hoped to find a means of converting mutants into techno-organic beings, like themselves, whom they could then assimilate. After the X-Men defeated the Phalanx, Charles Xavier decided the teenage mutants should be organized into a new class and taught how to use their powers. However, this time Xavier chose not to teach them himself; he was already fully occupied overseeing the large number of X-Men. Instead he chose two new headmasters: Sean Cassidy, alias Banshee, and the X-Men's former enemy, Emma Frost, the White Queen. Xavier took over the Massachusetts Academy, the private school Frost had headed, and turned it into the new Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, while Xavier's mansion became the Xavier Institute for Higher Learning.



A native of the Pacific island of Samoa, Mondo used an idyllic [illegible] the joined Generation X. Mondo's [illegible] power enables his body to copy any form of matter. But Mondo ended up after with Black Tom Cassidy as an enemy of his [illegible].

XAVIER'S NEW SCHOOL
The Massachusetts Academy, the new Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, and the base for Generation X, is located in the town of Snow Valley, amid the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts.

Artie and Leech
The Massachusetts Academy recently took in two mutant children, Artie Maddocks and Leech. Artie communicates by creating visual images of his thoughts, while the green-skinned Leech is a surviving Morlock who can neutralize the powers of any mutant near him.

THE NEW CLASS

The students of Generation X come from diverse backgrounds, yet they have bonded into a surrogate family. Two come from wealthy families. Jubilee, an Asian-American from Beverly Hills, was transferred to the new team from the X-Men, while Monet St Croix, code named M, is an aristocrat from Monaco. Two others grew up in poverty. Paige Guthrie, known as Husk, is Cannonball's sister from the coal mining regions of Kentucky, and Angelo Espinosa, known as Skin, grew up in the Latino barrio of East Los Angeles. The other members of this diverse group of mutants include Englishman Jonothon Starsmore, alias Chamber, and Everett Thomas, code named Synch, an African-American.

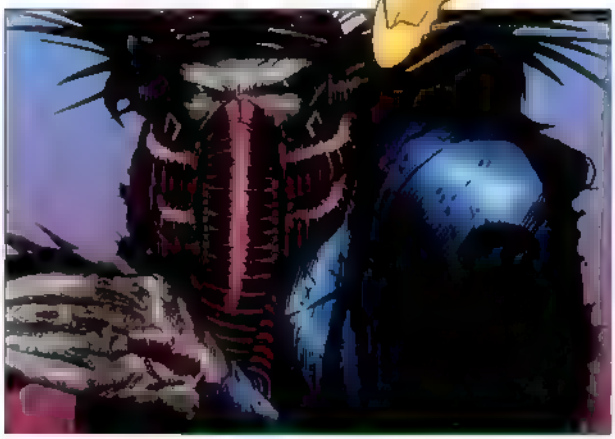
Chamber, Husk, and Skin
When Chamber's power to fire telekinetic blasts first arose, it destroyed half his face. Husk can shed her outer skin revealing a new form with superhuman attributes such as the hardness of diamond or the strength of steel. Skin has two extra yards of flesh which he can use to grapple objects.

M, Synch, and Emma Frost

The egocentric M possesses superhuman strength, telepathy and can fly. Synch can put himself "in synch" genetically with another mutant, thereby imitating that mutant's powers. Once the X-Men's enemy and part of the Hellfire Club, Emma Frost has since joined Generation X. Guilty over her failure to prevent the deaths of her former students, the Hellions, she seeks to redeem herself through teaching Generation X.

Tom Corsi

Tom Corsi was a policeman in Salem Center. The demon bear that mutated the New Mutants captured Corsi and local nurse Sharon Friedlander and transformed them into superhumanly strong Native Americans. Corsi and Friedlander then worked for Charles Xavier, and recently Sean Cassidy persuaded Corsi to teach Generation X.

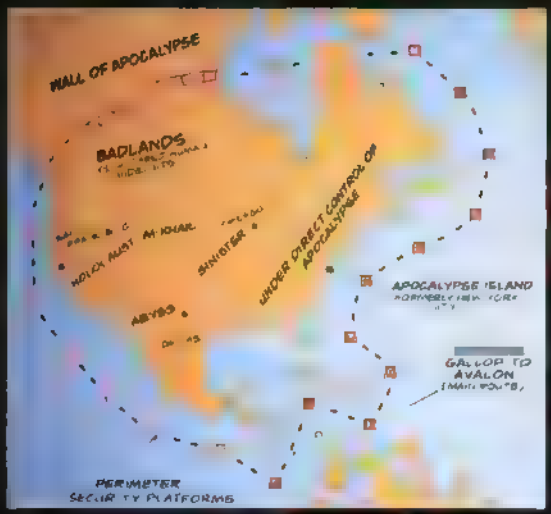


Emplate

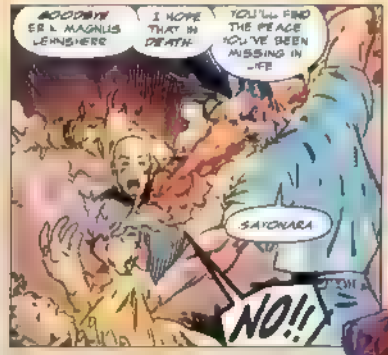
The strangest and most persistent of Generation X's adversaries is the creature called Emplate, a mutant who subsists on the genetic material of other mutants. After "feeding" on another mutant's DNA, Emplate temporarily gains his victim's superhuman powers. If he is denied this sustenance, he is thrown into a pocket dimension where he is the subject of constant torture. The first victim Emplate killed to satisfy his hunger was his own mother. It was later learned that Emplate is actually Marius St. Croix, the brother of Monet, alias M. At one point, Marius and Monet merged, forming the dangerous, single entity known as M-Plate.

THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE

THE ALTERNATE REALITY known as the "Age of Apocalypse" reversed the premise of the "Days of Future Past." Whereas in the "Days of Future Past" timeline, mutants were the victims of oppression, in the "Age of Apocalypse" evil mutants, led by Apocalypse, enslaved the human population of North America. It began in our X-Men's reality, when Charles Xavier's son, Legion, journeyed back in time twenty years to assassinate Magneto before he could begin his war on humanity. Instead, Legion accidentally killed Xavier, creating an alternate timeline in which no one had been able to stop Apocalypse from conquering the continent. In this new timeline, the lives of each of the X-Men and other familiar characters became radically different. Following the climactic battle, this entire timeline was obliterated. Only four characters survived by escaping into our X-Men's timeline: one hero—Nate Grey, the X-Man—and three menaces—the Dark Beast, Holocaust, and Sugar Man.



A WORLD DIVIDED
Once Apocalypse had conquered the North American continent, he erected enormous barriers to stop people from fleeing his tyranny to Europe.



[illegible]

Xavier's sacrifice

Hoping to change his father's life for the better, Legion went back in time to kill Magneto before he could become Xavier's enemy. But Legion did not realize that Xavier would sacrifice his own life to save his friend.

Magneto

Seeing Xavier die trying to save his life changed Magneto forever. He vowed to devote his life to bring about Xavier's goal of peace between mutants and humans. As a result, it was Magneto who founded the X-Men in this timeline, and he who became Apocalypse's enemy.

MAGNETO'S FAMILY
In this alternate reality, Magneto [illegible] Magneto [illegible] X-Men [illegible] Magneto [illegible] friend.

Bishop was sent back [illegible] by Magneto [illegible] Legion [illegible] Xavier, Magneto [illegible] Apocalypse [illegible]

Gambit and the X-Ternals

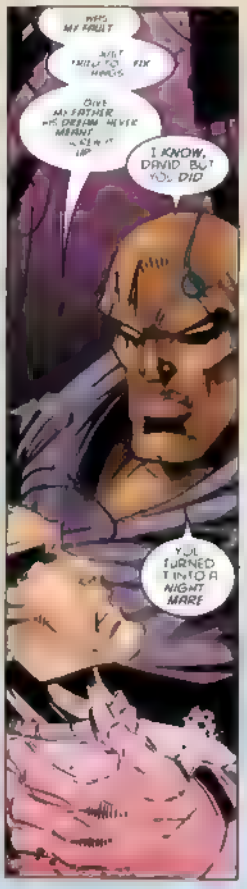
Gambit became the modern day Robin Hood of the "Age of Apocalypse." He led the X-Ternals, a band of mutants which included Jubilee, Sunspot, and Strong Guy, who stole from Apocalypse's elite to help the poor. Magneto assigned Gambit and the X-Ternals to travel to the Shiar Galaxy to steal the powerful M'Krann Crystal.

[illegible]

Dark Beast

Henry McCoy in the "Age of Apocalypse" timeline was a sadistic, warped genius who took pleasure in subjecting human victims to painful genetic experiments, [illegible] him the code name Dark Beast. He escaped it to the normal X-Men timeline when the "Age of Apocalypse" timeline was obliterated.

[illegible]



Apocalypse

Once in control of North America, Apocalypse implemented his philosophy of survival of the fittest on a colossal scale. He set about his program of cleansing humanity's gene pool of all he considered weak and unfit to live. Through continual culling of the population, Apocalypse threatened to wipe out the human race.

TYRANT'S END
In their final battle [illegible]

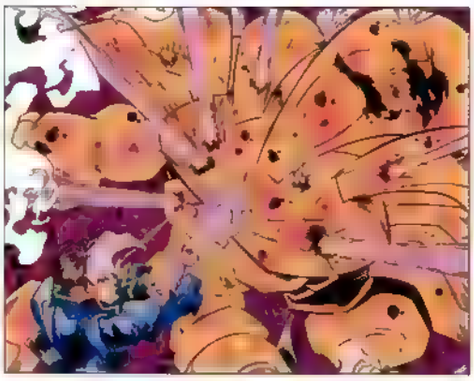
Four Horsemen

In this timeline, Apocalypse's Four Horsemen were Abyss, Holocaust, Mikhail Rasputin, and Sinister. But Sinister secretly plotted against Apocalypse, creating Nate Grey to use as a living weapon against him.

X-MAN

CREATED IN THE Age of Apocalypse timeline, Nate Grey, the X-Man, is one of the few of that reality's mutants to survive its end. Genetically engineered from the DNA of Scott Summers and Jean Grey, Nate Grey is, in effect, the Age of Apocalypse's counterpart to Cable. Free from Cable's techno-organic disease, Nate Grey has enormous powers of telepathy and telekinesis that make him potentially the mightiest mutant on Earth. Indeed, his abilities are so vast in scope that they are too much for his adolescent body to contain. Hence, unless a cure is found, his mutant powers will inevitably kill him while he is still young. It was Sinister of the "Age of Apocalypse" who genetically engineered the child he named Nate Grey, intending to use him as a living weapon against the tyrant Apocalypse. By coincidence, Nate was freed from captivity by Cyclops, unaware that he was the boy's "father." Instead, Nate found a father figure in his world's version of Forge, until Forge was murdered by Sinister.

Having rescued Nate from genetic [illegible] Nate Grey, the boy is an accelerated [illegible] mutant born in a blasting [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible] development.



Last battle
In the climactic battle that ended the "Age of Apocalypse," Nate Grey drove a shard of the all-powerful M'Krann Crystal into the chest of his enemy Holocaust. Unexpectedly, it transported them both into the X-Men's normal reality, making them two of the only survivors of their native timeline.

TIMELINE TRAVELER

Ultimately, Nate Grey encountered his genetic parents and aided them and their allies in the overthrow of Apocalypse's dictatorship. Although the Age of Apocalypse timeline was doomed to oblivion, the strange powers of the M'Krann Crystal somehow spared Nate, transporting him to the restored timeline of the X-Men. Used to the bleak, devastated world of his origin, Nate found his new world beautiful but strange. At first, Nate found himself at odds with Cable and the X-Men, but recently he has been welcomed into their ranks. Now, as before, Nate's goal is to do whatever he can to prevent his new world from suffering the same fate as the dystopian Earth into which he was born.

MADELYNE PROX
When Nate ended up in the current X-Men's reality, he found Madelyne Prox, alone. Longing for companionship, Nate used his powers to transfer the remaining psionic energy of Jean Grey [illegible] Madelyne Prox and created a new body for her. Although she [illegible] Madelyne [illegible] the original Madelyne, but a pleasant [illegible] she had the [illegible] of her powers, personality, and memories.

X-Man unleashed
Young and fiery-tempered, once Nate is provoked he can launch into a nearly unstoppable fury. Recently, Nate has learned self-control in his new role as a latter-day "shaman," using his psionic powers to aid others.

[illegible] Nate [illegible] from the Age of Apocalypse [illegible] the mutant.

Meeting his maker
As the "Age of Apocalypse" timeline drew to its close, Nate Grey finally confronted his maker, Sinister, who then revealed how he had created Nate to kill Apocalypse. Enraged that Sinister had murdered his father figure, Forge, Nate unleashed his powers against Sinister, leaving him mortally wounded. Yet Nate found no satisfaction in revenge, only a sense of loneliness in this barren world.

Cerebro implant

Threnody
Originally, the Sinister of this timeline used the mutant Threnody as a tracker to track down Nate Grey. On finding X-Men, Threnody switched [illegible] and even became Nate's pal [illegible]. She is, however, haunted by her own power, the ability to turn dying breaths into destructive energy. Unfortunately, she is unable to control this ability without help, and she has been responsible for the deaths of several innocent people. Threnody has now been equipped with cerebral implants which allow her to store the energy she collects for [illegible] as she likes. Nate made the mistake of [illegible] these implants [illegible] and destroyed a hotel.

[illegible] equipped [illegible] Threnody [illegible] X-Men [illegible] 90s [illegible]

ONSLAUGHT

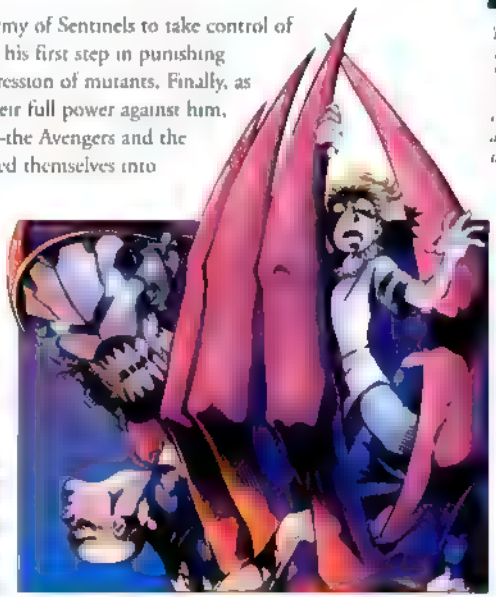
With Xavier's telepathic abilities, but not himself restrained, Onslaught could unleash the full, terrible force of Professor X's psychic power.

ALTHOUGH HE FOUNDED the X-Men, Charles Xavier has come the closest to destroying them. On two occasions, the evil side of Xavier's psyche has briefly manifested itself as a separate astral being. During a battle between the X-Men and Magneto, Xavier lost his temper and used his mental powers to wipe out Magneto's memory. The moment he did so, the dark side of Xavier's mind, containing all his suppressed rage at humanity's bigotry toward mutants, contacted its counterpart in Magneto's soul. A new, malevolent being, Onslaught, was created. This being combined not only the superhuman powers of both Magneto and Professor X, but also their full, unrestrained capacity for evil.

THE ULTIMATE EVIL MUTANT
Though Onslaught was unwittingly formed from the minds of Xavier and Magneto, he took on a life of his own and existed independently of his creators. His body and armor being composed of pure psychic energy, but a time, Onslaught was perhaps the mightiest being on Earth. His devastating attack on Manhattan inflamed human vigor, hatred of mutants and set the stage for Bastions' antimutant "Operation: Zero Tolerance."

SENTINEL LEADER

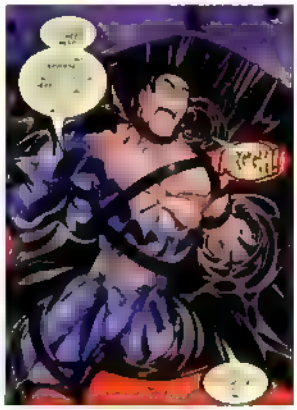
Onslaught used an army of Sentinels to take control of Manhattan. This was his first step in punishing humanity for its oppression of mutants. Finally, as the X-Men turned their full power against him, other Super Heroes—the Avengers and the Fantastic Four—hurled themselves into Onslaught, and destroyed him from within.



UNWITTING SLAVE
Onslaught added to his already immense power when he kidnapped Franklin Richards, the young son of two members of the Fantastic Four. By hoisting Franklin prisoner inside his body, Onslaught could draw upon Franklin's mutant power to restructure reality. Likewise, Onslaught captured Nate Grey, aims X-Man, to gain Nate's powerful possibilities.

Captive Xavier

Onslaught also held Charles Xavier captive and stripped him of his telepathic powers. Xavier, X-Man, and Franklin were all finally freed from Onslaught, but Xavier felt responsible for the being's creation and surrendered himself to the government. Xavier can never be certain that someday he will not unwittingly create another Onslaught.



BASTION

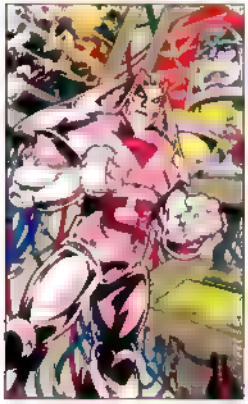
THIS MYSTERIOUS MAN saw himself as humanity's last "bastion" of defense against the mutant menace. But, though he himself did not know it at first, the man who called himself Bastion was actually a Sentinel robot in human guise. He originated as Master Mold, an immense Sentinel designed by Bolivar Trask. After the Master Mold was demolished by the Banshee, one of its components was found by Nimrod, an advanced Sentinel that had traveled from the future. The Master Mold's programming infiltrated Nimrod's systems, reconstructing it into a combination of both robots. Dazzler blasted this amalgam into a dimensional portal created by the Siege Perilous. Magical forces then transformed the robot into the form of an adult human, with no memory of his true origins. However, he was still driven by his original programming — to capture and destroy all mutants.

SENTINELS

Bastion offered [illegible] to patrol [illegible] Prosperity [illegible] where he [illegible] called the Prime Sentinel, claiming that the only way [illegible] Sentinels [illegible] protect Mankind [illegible] Man [illegible] he also promised to turn the human [illegible] Sentinel [illegible] would exterminate the mutants.

ROBOTIC MENACE

When his body was attacked by an explosion, [illegible] Bastion's head [illegible] Master Mold programming [illegible] Bastion and Nimrod personal [illegible] and gave [illegible] and a new name: Template.



BASTION'S TRUE FORM

[illegible] Bastion's [illegible] robotic [illegible] Nimrod. He [illegible] demonstrated [illegible] Master Mold.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Bastion assembled an international paramilitary force called "Operation: Zero Tolerance" to put an end to the "mutant menace." He succeeded in capturing various X-Men and taking over Xavier's mansion. Appalled by his actions, the president of the United States had Bastion arrested, and government scientists soon discovered that Bastion was an android. Bastion has since escaped to menace all of humanity, most recently under the new name of Template.

Base of operations

In a secluded part of New Mexico lies a military installation once known as Hellbloster Base. Originally built to contain the Incredible Hulk, this bunker, which extends hundreds of feet beneath the ground, once served as Bastion's base of operations.

When he appeared as the Bastion, he could persuade government officials [illegible] a [illegible] human like them.

MARROW

MARROW IS AN X-MAN with a disturbingly different mutant power: detachable bones grow right through her skin. She is a second-generation member of the Morlocks, an enormous community of mutants who lived in a system of tunnels beneath the streets of Manhattan. (The Morlocks took their name from the underground race in H. G. Wells' novel *The Time Machine*.) Like the other Morlocks, her parents were outcasts from human society because they were mutants. This group of pariahs found refuge in the tunnels and abandoned bomb shelters that lie under New York City. It was here that Sarah, the future Marrow, was born.

Recently, Marrow learned how to retract her exterior bones into her body, making herself appear more [illegible]

When Marrow removes a bone, a new one grows in its place

Removing a bone causes Marrow pain

Marrow can hurl her sharp bones as if they were knives

MORLOCK TERRORIST

Some time after her birth, a group of mutant mercenaries, known as the Marauders, slaughtered most of the Morlocks on the orders of Sinister. Sarah was still a child then, but Colossus' mutant brother, Mikhail Rasputin, transported her and other survivors of the attack to another dimension, known as "the Hill." Here, time moves more quickly than it does on Earth. As a result, when Sarah returned to Earth, she had grown up and was called Marrow. She was also the leader of a terrorist army called Gene Nation. This group of second-generation Morlocks was determined to take revenge on humanity for oppressing mutants. To stop Marrow, Storm was forced to rip out her heart. However, Marrow survived because her mutant anatomy had given her a second heart. She returned to battle the forces of Operation: Zero Tolerance. Seeking to turn Sarah away from vengeance, Callisto, the Morlocks' former leader, sent her to live with the X-Men. Since then, Marrow has slowly overcome her hostility toward the rest of the world and learned to adjust to life as a member of the X-Men.

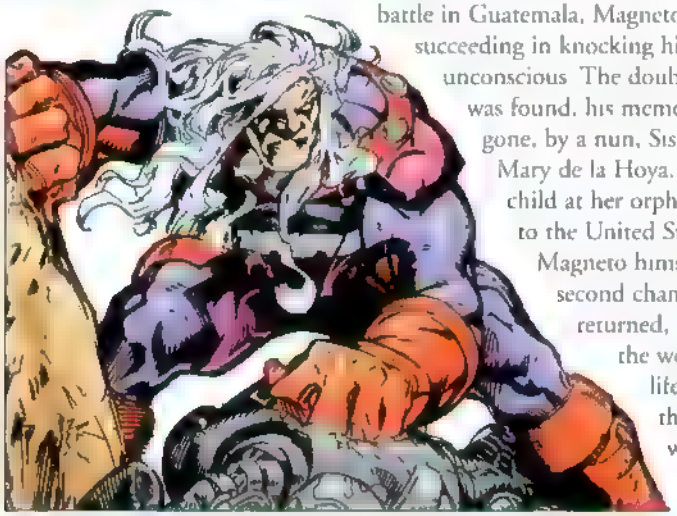
BONY GROWTHS
Sarah's largest det[illegible] protrude from her back. Bones also sprout from other parts of her body, including her forehead, shoulders, arms, legs, and waist.

Life in the X-Men

Marrow was embittered by the harsh life she lived, first in the Morlocks' dark tunnels, and then fighting for survival in the dimension of Mikhail Rasputin took her to. Despite Marrow's hostile attitude, Wolverine decided to become her mentor when she joined the X-Men. He succeeded in training her to work as a member of a team. As Marrow slowly mellowed, she grew close first to Gambit, and later to Colossus.

JOSEPH

A FEMALE MUTANT named Astra created a genetic duplicate of her old enemy Magneto, but one who was physically in his early twenties. Astra sent her creation to kill Magneto, but during their battle in Guatemala, Magneto succeeding in knocking him unconscious. The double was found, his memory gone, by a nun, Sister Mary de la Hoya. A child at her orphanage named him Joseph. Sister Mary sent Joseph to the United States to find the X-Men, who assumed he was Magneto himself, somehow grown younger. Willing to give him a second chance, they made him an X-Man. The real Magneto returned, manipulating the Earth's magnetic sphere to disrupt the world's electrical systems. Joseph nobly sacrificed his life to repair the damage to the magnetosphere, thwarting Magneto's attempt at world conquest.



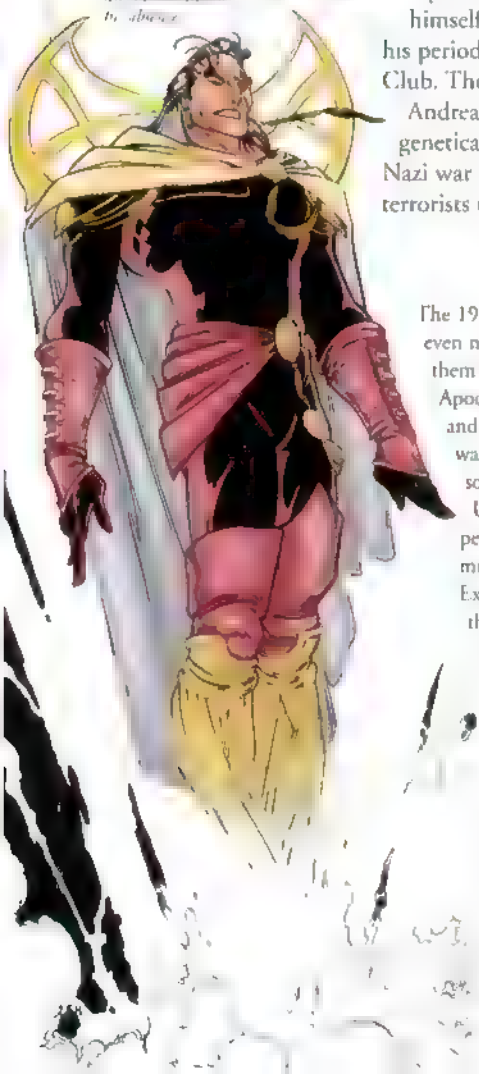
MAGGOTT

UNQUESTIONABLY the X-Man with the strangest—and most disgusting—mutant power is Maggott. As a child in in South Africa, Japheth suffered from a mysterious ailment that made it almost impossible for him to digest solid food. When he was twelve he realized that he was a financial burden to his parents and drove into the desert to die. He was found by Magneto, who activated Japheth's mutant power, releasing two giant sluglike creatures from his abdomen. When they were out of his body, his skin turned blue. Japheth discovered that the slugs were his digestive system. He could no longer eat like a normal human, the slugs eat for him, and then burrow into his body. Somehow, the hole they make when entering and leaving his body seals immediately. Now calling himself Maggott, he briefly served in the X-Men after Operation: Zero Tolerance.

OTHER '90s VILLAINS

[illegible] Creed [illegible] patent [illegible] mutant [illegible] campaign for the presidency ended in his assassination

TWO OF THE X-MEN'S greatest adversaries, Apocalypse and Sinister, were introduced in the 1980s, along with Sinister's Marauders, the alien Brood, Magus, Mojo, Spiral, and Madelyne Pryor as the Goblyn Queen. There were others as well. Wolverine's persistent nemesis, Lady Deathstrike, was only one of the many members of a group of villains known as the Reavers. These were cyborgs humans who had had parts of their bodies replaced with mechanical devices, giving them superhuman abilities. Donald Pierce, a cyborg himself, took command of the Reavers during his period of estrangement from the Hellfire Club. Then there were the twins Andrea and Andreas von Strucker. They were the genetically enhanced children of a notorious Nazi war criminal, and together they operated as terrorists under the code name Fenris.

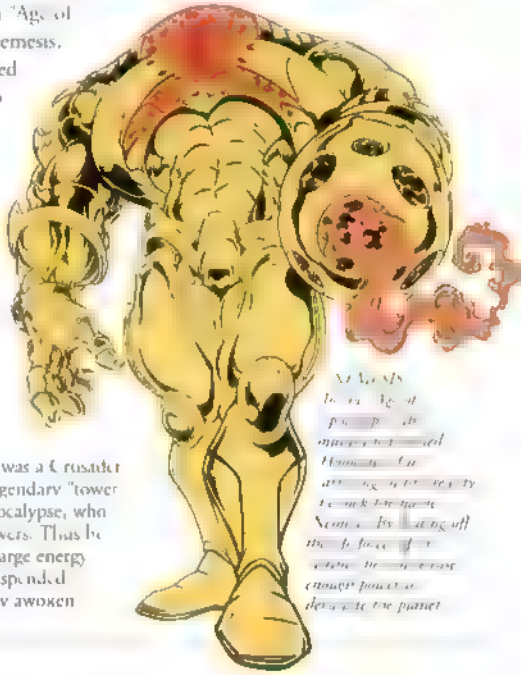


[illegible] Magneto [illegible] to [illegible]

Sugar Man
The grotesque Sugar Man was transported from the "Age of Apocalypse" to our X-Men's reality, but 20 years in the past. He secretly supervised the genetic experiments that created Genoshas mutant slaves.

DISPLACED IN TIME

The 1990s brought a new wave of enemies who were even more malign than their predecessors. Three of them were fugitives from the nightmarish "Age of Apocalypse" timeline: the Dark Beast, Nemesis, and Sugar Man. Another, Graydon Creed was a dangerous antimutant bigot who sought to become president of the United States by appealing to people's fear and suspicion of mutants. Equally dangerous were Exodus and his fellow members of the Acolytes who, in their own way, were as fanatical as Creed. They worshipped Magneto as a prophet of a new age in which mutants ruled the world.



[illegible] Nemesis [illegible] power [illegible] the planet

Exodus
In the 12th century, Bennet du Paris was a Crusader in the Holy Land. While seeking a legendary "tower of power," du Paris was found by Apocalypse, who unleashed Bennet's latent mutant powers. Thus he became Exodus, able to fly and discharge energy bolts. Apocalypse cast Exodus into suspended animation from which he has recently awoken.

Lady Deathstrike

Yuriko Oyama's late father, a scientist, devised a process for binding adamantium molecules to human bone. Convinced that his secret had been stolen and used on Wolverine, Yuriko became the sadistic Lady Deathstrike, determined to kill Wolverine and claim his skeleton.

X Cutioner

Charles Xavier once worked closely with FBI agent Fred Duncan. But after Fred's death, his protegé, federal agent Carl Denti, became a vigilante, hunting down and executing mutants he considered to be evil. As the X Cutioner, Denti is perfectly willing to kill the X-Men.

Dark Beast

He is known as the Dark Beast and Black Beast, or simply McCoy. He is [illegible] McCoy, the mutant Beast, became in the "Age of Apocalypse" a sadistic genetic engineer who conducted [illegible] experiments on his [illegible] captives. McCoy revealed 20 years into the past of our X-Men's [illegible] and [illegible] Mimeoclo [illegible] his experiments. In his most [illegible] plot, he once took the X-Men's Beast prisoner and impersonated him.

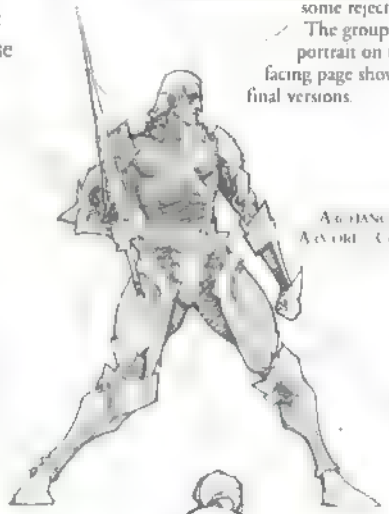
Chris Claremont and artist Lenil Francis Yu took over as X-Men's creative team with the hundredth issue. Claremont returned to the Uncanny X-Men [illegible] and teamed with artist Adam Kubert.

X-MEN COMICS 2000

THE X-MEN family of comics underwent a revolution in the year 2000 and found different directions to take into the new century. After an absence of nine years, Chris Claremont returned to writing *X-Men* and the *Uncanny X-Men*. British writer Warren Ellis devised new story lines for other X-Men-related series, including *Cable*, *Generation X*, *X-Force*, and *X-Man*. The X-Men's cast of characters went through some surprising changes. Apocalypse sought to rejuvenate his ancient body by taking over the body of Nate Grey. Cyclops saved Nate, but physically merged with Apocalypse himself and then seemingly ceased to exist. When this happened, the X-Men presumed that both Cyclops and Apocalypse were dead.

Redesigning the X-Men

The X-Men continually evolve with the times, in part by adopting new costumes as fads or changes. Artist Lenil Francis Yu sketched many proposals for the X-Men's new looks, some of which are shown here. Some were accepted, some modified, and some rejected. The group portrait on the facing page shows the final versions.



A CHANGE IN ATTIRE: COSTUME

MAKING CHANGES

In honor of his father, Cable joined the X-Men. Phoenix no longer had telekinetic powers, but Psylocke did. The religious Nightcrawler studied to become a priest. Gambit became leader of the Thieves' Guild. Magneto ruled Genosha, while a demon, known as Blackheart, replaced Sebastian Shaw as the Black King of the Hellfire Club.

X-Man took on a new role, acting as a shaman, or mystic, who guards the Earth.

REVOLUTION: In the X books, X-Force became a commando squad led by Peter Wisdom, and Generation X sought to protect endangered teenager. With Apocalypse seemingly dead, Cable found a new role defending those in need.

NEW LOOK FOR STORM

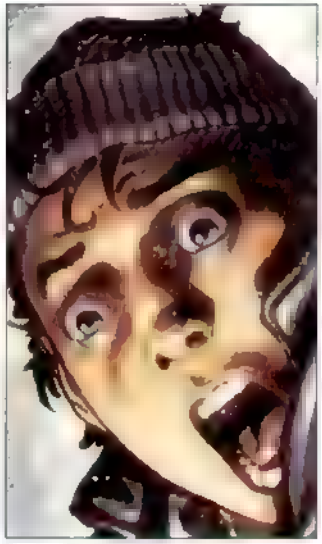
X-Men in 2000

The X-Men's new roster includes Beast, Cable, Colossus, Gambit, Nightcrawler, Phoenix, Psylocke, Rogue, Shadowcat, Storm and Wolverine. On the fan, it stands another member, Neal Sharra, the new Thunderbird. Unlike his namesake, he is not a Native American but comes from India. He has the mutant power to turn his body into plasma, the super heated state of matter.

WOLVERINE ORIGIN

Wolverine: The Origin *was drawn by Adam Kubert. Original painting was by Richard Isanove*

NOT EVEN WOLVERINE himself knew the truth about his origins. His mutant healing factor may have caused this memory loss, by suppressing his most painful childhood memories. The *Origin* limited series, which was plotted by Paul Jenkins, Bill Jemas, and Joe Quesada, at last provided a solution to this mystery. Around the end of the 19th century in Alberta, Canada, lived a boy named James Howlett. The wealthy Howletts took in a red-haired orphan, Rose, to be his companion. James's father John subsequently fired the groundskeeper, Thomas Logan, who bore a suspicious resemblance to the adult Wolverine. When James witnessed Logan and his son Dog murder John, James's claws emerged for the first time, and he killed Thomas Logan.



Young James Howlett

As a boy, James was frail and sickly frightened by the horrific events that befell him. Wolverine's mutant healing factor greatly slowed his aging once he reached adulthood.

INTO THE WILD

Rejected by his family as a freak, James fled with Rose to Canada's northern frontier, where they worked at a quarry. Needing an alias for James, Rose dubbed him "Logan." At the quarry Logan grew strong and self-reliant. Dog tracked Logan down and they fought, but when Rose tried to stop Logan from killing Dog, she fell onto his claws and died. Having lost the woman he loved, Logan turned his back on civilization to roam the wilderness.

RUNNING WITH THE WOLVES

In northern Canada, the other, wilder side of James' personality grew stronger and stronger. He spent may running and running [illegible] Rose [illegible] with James [illegible] pack.

James [illegible] Logan and Rose found refuge at the quarry

Claws of Bone

As a young man, James was appalled by the claw-like bones that suddenly protruded from his fingers. In years to come, his claws would be infused with adamantium and become his deadliest weapons.

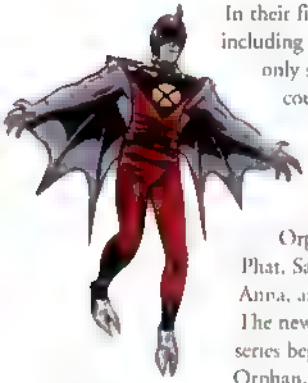
X-STATIX

ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO, most mutant humans either posed as "normal" humans or hid from the rest of humanity in order to avoid persecution. However, the X-Statix found an unexpected way to exist in human society: they became celebrities. Created by writer Peter Milligan and artist Michael Allred, the team was originally known as the new X-Force. Unlike other super hero teams, the mutants in X-Statix perform their heroic deeds for fame and fortune. They appear on television, promote products, and license merchandise bearing their images. There is only one downside to their lives as media stars: the team's high mortality rate.

U-Go Girl

The Orphan

THE PRICE OF FAME



The Horn was a character who was designed for early concept sketches for the new X-Force

In their first issue, *X-Force #116*, almost the entire team, including their leader Zeitgeist, was killed in action. The only survivors were Edie Sawyer, alias U-Go Girl (who could teleport), Tike Alicar, alias the Anarchist (whose sweat generates energy blasts), and the enigmatic Doop (who videotapes missions). More recruits were soon enlisted, including a new leader, Guy Smith, alias Mr. Sensitive or the Orphan (whose senses are incredibly acute), Bloke, Phat, Saint Anna, and Vivisector. However Bloke, Saint Anna, and U-Go Girl all perished on subsequent missions. The new X-Force changed its name when the new *X-Statix* series began in 2002. The new roster consisted of the Orphan, the Anarchist, Dead Girl, Phat, new recruit Venus Dee Milo, Vivisector, and Doop. Only time will tell how long any of them will manage to survive.

X-Force
Prominent X-Force members include the Orphan (at top), the Anarchist (center left), Doop (center right), and U-Go Girl (bottom).

At left, the original X-Force with Zeitgeist (front center), [illegible] now deceased.

Bloke died on a mission in South America—he was struck down by rocket fired by the armed forces of the Peoples Republic of Bahrain.

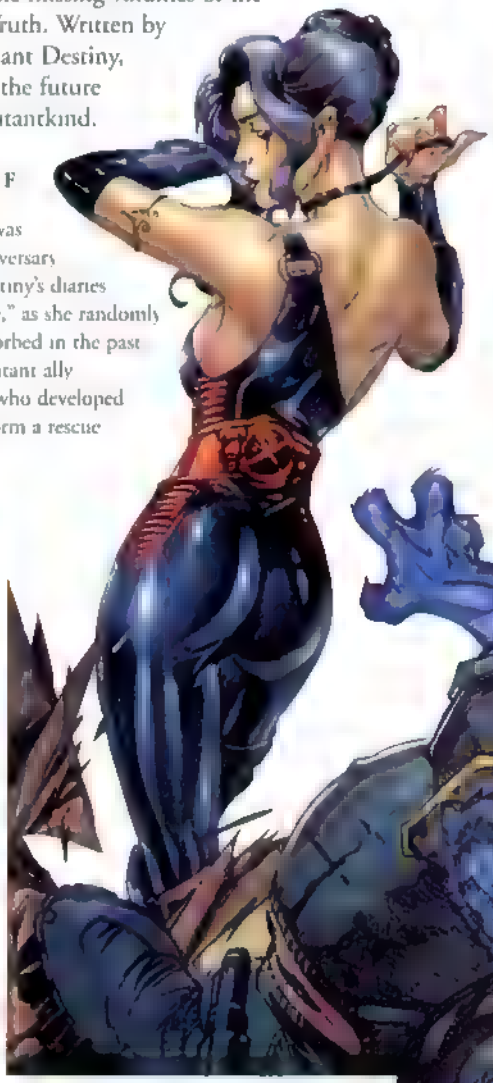
X-TREME X-MEN

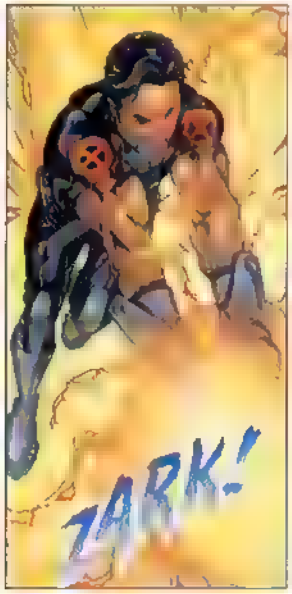
THE THIRD X-MEN series, *X-Treme X-men*, was created by longtime X-Men writer Chris Claremont and artist Salvador Larroca and premiered in 2001. Its premise was that Storm persuaded a number of X-Men—Beast, Bishop, Psylocke, Rogue, Sage, Thunderbird—to leave the Xavier Institute to help her search the world for the missing volumes of the *Libris Veritatus*, the Books of Truth. Written by the deceased, precognitive mutant Destiny, these diaries allegedly revealed the future history of humanity and of mutantkind.

X-TREME X-MEN
The original group of the X-Treme X-Men [illegible] Beast and Bishop (in back), Storm, Psylocke, Thunderbird and Rogue (in front) and Sage (not shown).

DEATH OF PSYLOCKE

Disasters befell the team: Psylocke was killed in combat by a mysterious adversary named Vargas, who also sought Destiny's diaries. Rogue's powers literally went "rogue," as she randomly manifested the abilities she had absorbed in the past. However the team gained a new mutant ally, Heather Cameron, alias Lifeguard, who developed whatever ability she needed to perform a rescue.





Thunderbird
The new Thunderbird, Neal Shaara, is a mutant from India who can generate plasma—a super-heated form of matter.

Sage
As Tessa, Sage was Charles Xavier's spy in the Hellfire Club. She is a mutant with a computer-like mind.

BEAST'S NEW LOOK
Soon after helping found the X-Treme X-Men, the Beast [illegible] to the Xavier Institute [illegible] NEW X-MEN [illegible] further [illegible] [illegible]

ULTIMATE X-MEN

IN 2000, MARVEL launched its "Ultimate" line of comics, presenting an alternate version of the Marvel Universe. The first modern Marvel comic, *Fantastic Four #1*, appeared in 1961; the X-Men debuted in 1963. It was believed that potential new readers might not want to start buying series that were nearly forty years old. But in the "Ultimate" comics, including *Ultimate X-Men*, the sagas of Marvel's classic characters start anew in the 21st century from their beginning.

ALTERNATE HISTORY

Writer Mark Millar and pencilers Adam and Andy Kubert were the initial creative team on *Ultimate X-Men*. These X-Men first appeared in a darker, more violent world than the originals. Magneto had launched terrorist attacks on New York and Washington; Sentinels were killing mutants. Xavier formed the X-Men "to stop a war between mutants and humankind."

Ultimate X-Men

The initial roster of X-Men in the "Ultimate" universe included (left to right) Iceman, Marvel Girl (Jean Grey, with a very different fashion sense than the original), Cyclops, Storm, the Beast, and Colossus.

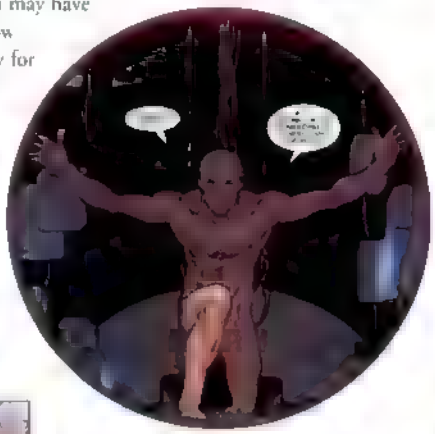
NEW X-MEN

A NEW ERA FOR the X-Men began in the year 2000. In that year, Mystique destroyed Muir Isle, killing Moira MacTaggart, who had succeeded in finding a cure for the Legacy Virus. Having begun advocating peace with mutantkind, Senator Robert Kelly was assassinated by a fanatic. However, the greatest change came in 2001 in *X-Men*, now written by Grant Morrison, drawn by Frank Quitely, and retitled *New X-Men*. Charles Xavier's twin sister, Cassandra Nova, suddenly usurped mental control of her brother's body and revealed him to the world at large as not only a mutant but the leader of the X-Men.

A Public Institution

Charles Xavier soon reclaimed his body from Cassandra's control. However, her public exposure of the X-Men may have been a blessing in disguise. Xavier could now publicly declare his school to be a sanctuary for mutants. He had soon assembled a larger student body of mutants at the Institute than ever before. A multi-billionaire, he created the Xavier Corporation, reaching out worldwide to help mutants. Xavier and the X-Men now dealt openly with the media, academia, and governments in promoting his dream of peaceful coexistence between mutants and the rest of humanity.

NEW X-MEN
New X-Men features Wolverine, Beast, Phoenix and Cyclops [illegible] the X-Men [illegible] black uniforms. White Queen and [illegible] X [illegible] X-men [illegible] featured [illegible] Angel [illegible] Nor [illegible] X [illegible] controls pyramids.



Professor X Walks
When Xavier's mind returned to his body, he discovered he could walk, thanks to Xorn, a mutant with healing powers.

DESTRUCTION OF GENOSHA
Cassandra Nova's body was stillborn, but her consciousness survived and [illegible] Senator [illegible] Earth. [illegible] Xavier's body, Cassandra [illegible] trapped in a synthetic [illegible]

DEATH OF [illegible]
[illegible] injected himself with the cure for the Legacy Virus. His death catalyzed the vaccine and released it into the atmosphere, [illegible] those infected all over the world.

X-UNIVERSE

EXILES

[illegible]

THE ARRIVAL OF the 21st century brought major changes for established characters and numerous new series. Havok had returned to the X-Men's reality after the original *Mutant X* series ended. Generation X disbanded, but some members joined the Banshee's mutant police force, X-Corps, as shown by writer Joe Casey in *Uncanny X-men*. In *Mechanix*, co-created by Chris Claremont, Kitty Pryde began a new life as a college student in Chicago. In *Chamber*, the title character became one of the openly mutant students at New York City's Empire State University. After Apocalypse was seemingly destroyed, Cable turned to new missions in *Soldier X*.

CHAMBER

MUTANTS IN AMERICA

New series depicted a variety of fates for mutants in today's world. In various *Weapon X* comics, the program was revived with Aurora, Kane, Marrow, Sabretooth, Sauron and others as agents. *Morlocks* showed a community of mutants hiding from persecution. *Mutes* focused on the plight of mutants living among humans, while *The Brotherhood* depicted mutants who had become terrorists. By contrast, the new *X-Factor* series centered on members of the FBI's Mutant Civil Rights Task Force, which investigates hate crimes against mutants.

Agent X
Alex Hayden, one of the world's most dangerous and mysterious mercenaries has taken the alias Agent X since, as his series states, "the letter X stands for an unknown quantity."

MUTANT SPINOFFS

The concept of super-powered mutants has such rich potential that Marvel has produced numerous variations on the theme, beginning in 1982 with the original *New Mutants* graphic novel and the first *Wolverine* limited series. Since 2002, Chris Claremont has devised two new and different versions of his 1980s series *Excalibur*. Two mutants better known as villains—Mystique and the White Queen—won their own books, as did the latter's new band of students, the Hellions. Other new series presented imaginative new treatments of the mutant theme, storylines that had little connection with the X-Men. *NYX* depicted a group of young mutant runaways, while *District X* portrayed a mutant ghetto within New York City.

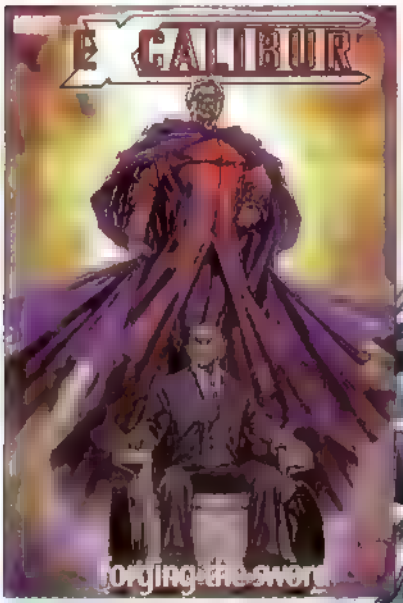
Solo Stars

Among the individual members of the X-Men who received their own series since 2002 are Gambit, Kitty Pryde, Nightcrawler, Rogue, Storm, and a new addition to the team, X-23. However, Peter Milligan and Mike Allred's unusual *X-Statix* came to a definite end in 2004, when the entire team, including the Orphan, the Anarchist, Venus Dee Milo and Doop, perished on their final mission.

After [illegible] the Xavier Institute as a student named Foxx. Mystique was exposed [illegible]

Mystique

Over the years mutant shapeshifter Mystique has morphed back and forth between antiheroine and terrorist villainess. Having achieved wider fame through the *X-Men* movies, Mystique won her own comic book series in 2003, which was originally written by Brian K. Vaughn. Although Mystique had killed Xavier's ex-fiancée, Moira MacTaggert, he recruited her to become his secret operative. In return, he promised to protect her from the authorities. The *Mystique* series chronicled her missions on Xavier's behalf. But ultimately the ungrateful shapeshifter made a vain attempt to kill Xavier.



Indian [illegible]

Excalibur

Wolverine thought he had beheaded Magneto, but he had slain an impostor named Xorn. The real Magneto returned as the ally of Charles Xavier in a new *Excalibur* series. Together these two former enemies sought to rebuild the devastated mutant nation of Genosha. When this series ended in 2005, Claremont and artist Michael Ryan created New Excalibur featuring a Europe-based team including Captain Britain, Pete Wisdom, the reformed Juggernaut, Dazzler, Sage, and Nocturne, the daughter of an alternate reality's Nightcrawler.

Emma Frost

Emma Frost

The sage of Emma Frost, the telepath who was once the villainous White Queen of the Hellfire Club, has lately taken surprising turns. She discovered her new mutant ability to turn her body hard as diamond and became a teacher at the Xavier Institute, where she mentors a new team of Hellions (including Dust, Hellion, Mercury, Rockslide, Tag and Wither). Most controversially, Frost has become the lover of Scott Summers, despite the disapproval of Rachel Summers (who now calls herself Marvel Girl after her mother, Jean Grey). From 2003 into 2004 there was even an *Emma Frost* comics series that told the story of her adolescence. Although she and Cyclops now head Xavier's school, her true loyalties remain a mystery.

X-23

X-23 is the code name given to Laura Kinney, who is a female clone of Wolverine with her own claws. She was created by writer Craig Kyle for the animated series *X-Men: Evolution*. In 2004, X-23 was introduced into Marvel Comics continuity in the series *NYX*, which concerned a group of homeless teenage mutants. Subsequently she has starred in her own *X-23* comics series and become a regular cast member in *Uncanny X-Men*.

District X

Since the original *X-Men #1*, Marvel's mutants have been compared to oppressed minority groups. The *District X* series, launched in 2004 by British writer David Hine and Australian artist David Yardin, took the metaphor in a new direction. District X, also known as Mutant Town, is a ghetto for mutants within New York City. Whereas the X-Men live in a mansion, these mutants dwell in tenements. The District X mutants do not have spectacular abilities like the X-Men; they have low-level powers or physical differences that make them the objects of racial discrimination. *District X* centers on Ismael Ortega, a human policeman, and his partner Lucas Bishop, a member of the X-Men who is working with the New York Police Department. Together they investigate crimes involving District X's mutant community.

Returning to The Uncanny X-Men, writer Chris Claremont teamed again with artist Alan Davis, with whom he had created the original Excalibur.

THE X-MEN 2002–2005

In the world of the X-Men, the status quo is continually changing, and not even death is always permanent. Jean Grey died and was resurrected once more, but saw her husband Cyclops fall in love with her former foe, the White Queen. The X-Men thought they saw the villainous Magneto die before their eyes, but the real Magneto soon resurfaced as Professor Xavier's ally. Colossus and Psylocke made their own miraculous returns from seeming death. Professor Xavier once again was confined to a wheelchair, but his school welcomed an enormous new class of young mutant students. Behind the scenes, when *X-Treme X-Men* ran its course, veteran X-author Chris Claremont returned to the original series, *The Uncanny X-Men*. Claremont's classic X-Men stories had been a major influence on Joss Whedon, creator of the television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer, who began writing his own mutant comics series in 2004, *The Astonishing X-Men*.

Constant Change

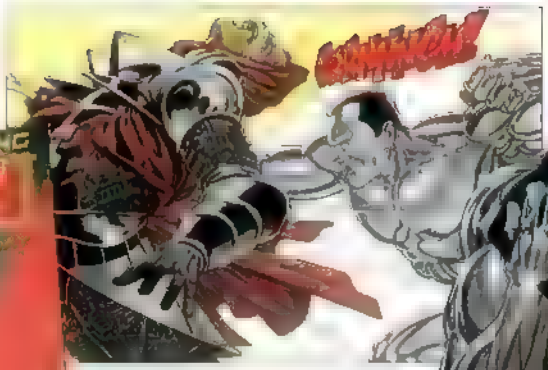
Among other developments, the Juggernaut reformed and joined the X-Men. Rogue's name was revealed as Anna Marie, and she lost the powers she had stolen from Ms. Marvel. Two of Emma Frost's protégés, telepathic quintuplets called the Stepford Cuckoos, were killed. Two other Xavier Institute students, the grotesque, birdlike Beak and the winged Angel Rodriguez, were married before they and many other mutants lost their powers at the end of the *House of M* series.

Phoenix: Endsong

In Grant Morrison's *Planet X* story arc, the treacherous Xorn impersonated Magneto and murdered Jean Grey. In the limited series *Phoenix: Endsong*, written by Greg Pak and illustrated by Greg Land, the Phoenix Force resurrected Jean to serve as its host body again. Fearing what Dark Phoenix might do, Jean tried to destroy herself, but then the Phoenix Force possessed Emma Frost instead. Cyclops revived Jean, who again bonded with the Phoenix Force and left Earth.

Set in a possible future, Here Comes Tomorrow shows Jean Grey entering the otherworldly White Hot Room as the "White Phoenix of the Crown."

[illegible]



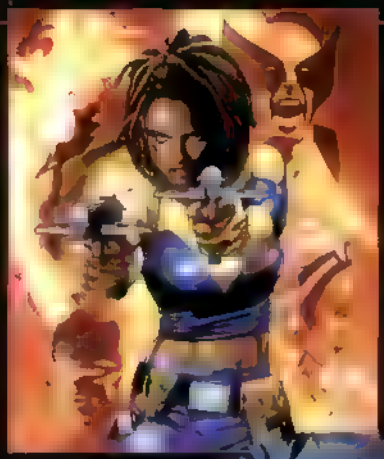
[illegible]

Astonishing X-Men

Film maker Joss Whedon was asked by X-Men's Kitty Pryde as an inspiration for his own teenage hero, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Hence Whedon happily took the opportunity to collaborate with artist John Cassaday on a new *X-Men* comic series that focused on Kitty and a core team including Cyclops, Wolverine, the Beast, and Emma Frost. Whedon's first story arc, *Gifted*, introduced the mutant Ord and Dr. Kavita Rao, who together developed a controversial "cure" for mutants. Whedon also brought back the supposedly deceased Colossus, as Whedon's second story arc, *The Danger Room*, proved to be intelligent and turned against the X-Men.

Academy X

Within the vastly expanded student body at the X-Men's [illegible] New X-Men Academy [illegible] New Mutants [illegible] Dani Moonstar. Members included Prodigy (who absorbs other people's knowledge), Wind Dancer (who summons winds), Whiteout (who generates [illegible]), Surge (who fires electrical [illegible]), and the winged Icarus.



ALTERNATE REALITIES

IN THE COMICS, the X-Men have a rich history that goes back more than 40 years. But what if that history had taken very different twists and turns? In recent years, Marvel Comics has been exploring several alternate versions of the X-Men saga. There is the *Ultimate X-Men* series, in which the team's adventures begin in the early 21st century. The acclaimed author Neil Gaiman went in the opposite direction with his series *Marvel 1602*, in which the original X-Men are depicted living in Europe during the early 17th century. Chris Claremont's *X-Men: The End* and Paul Jenkins' *Wolverine: The End* speculated about the characters' ultimate fate in the future. Finally, Marvel's major crossover series for 2005, *House of M*, dramatically revised X-Men history so that Magneto conquered the Earth, and mutants became the dominant race.

ULTIMATE X-MEN

The *Ultimate X-Men* comics chronicle an alternative history of the X-Men, presenting counterparts of familiar characters and storylines (including the Dark Phoenix saga) that diverge from the originals. In recent years, the Beast was killed and the Angel, Dazzler, Nightcrawler, Rogue, and Shadowcat joined the team. Brian Michael Bendis and Brian K. Vaughn followed Mark Millar as writer of the series. In the crossover series *Ultimate War*, the X-Men battled the Ultimates, this continuity's version of Marvel's Avengers.

X-Men: The End

In the epic-length *X-Men: The End*, author Chris Claremont and artist Sean Chen conjure a fascinating possible future for the X-Men, one set not many years into the future. Scott Summers and Emma Frost now have children, as do Gambit and Rogue. Kitty Pryde is running for political office, Nightcrawler is a movie star, and Bishop and Deathbird have a teenage daughter named Aliyah. However the X-Men's peace is shattered when Jean Grey returns as Phoenix, Sinister reemerges, and an alien Warskrull destroys the Xavier Institute in a suicide bombing. Thus begins the X-Men's final war against their most formidable adversaries.

JOHN HOWLETT
The villain of Wolverine: The End *claims to be Logan's older brother, John Howlett, who possesses similar mutant powers. Howlett offers to reveal Logan's forgotten past to him if they become partners. But instead Wolverine battles to prevent him from destroying the city of Las Vegas.*

Wolverine aged 210 years old.

The End: Wolverine

Written by Paul Jenkins and illustrated by Claudio Castellini, *Wolverine: The End* is a sequel to Jenkins' previous *Wolverine: Origin* series. Wolverine's mutant healing factor greatly slows his aging. Hence, whereas *Origin* established that he was born in the 19th century, *Wolverine: The End* shows what Wolverine's life might be like 100 years from now. In this alternate future the white-haired Wolverine may have arthritis, but remains a formidable fighter. After decades living in seclusion in Canada, Logan emerges to attend Sabretooth's funeral, and then to investigate the mystery of his own past.

House of M

Suffering from a nervous breakdown, Magneto's daughter, the Scarlet Witch, uses her "hex" power to alter history. In the alternate reality she creates, Magneto won a Mutant-Human War decades ago and became ruler of the planet. Mutants now dominate society, their numbers increasing while the population of "normal" humans declines. The lives of the X-Men and other heroes are radically different, and only Wolverine initially realizes that something is wrong with reality. Written by Brian Michael Bendis, the *House of M* series was Marvel's major publishing event of 2005, crossing over into numerous other series.

1602

In *1602* time is altered, creating an alternate reality in which counterparts of many of the original Marvel heroes and villains from the 1960s exist during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England. In this alternate version of Europe the Spanish Inquisition persecutes mutants, who are known as the Witchbreed. Yet the white-bearded Grand Inquisitor himself proves to be a mutant. *1602*'s version of Magneto, by contrast, is a sassy mutant named Carlos Javier who rescues young Witchbreed. Written by Neil Gaiman, author of the *Sandman* series, and drawn by Andy Kubert, *1602* won the first Quills award for Best Graphic Novel.

TWEEKS AND HERKELD
Future student and counterpart of X-Men Tyler Nathaniel Tweeks, 1602 ancestors Hermione Herkeld, Arthur and Jessica Tweeks, and Angel and Leah Herkeld.

THE WORLD OF THE X-MEN

Europe and the Middle East

The Hellfire Club originated in 18th century London and now has other bases in New York City and Hong Kong. Apocalypse transformed Nathaniel Essex into Sinister in 17th century London. Recently, the UK has been the home of Captain Britain and Excalibur. Charles Xavier and Moira MacTaggert met as students at Oxford University. Dr. MacTaggert's Mutant Research Center is located on Muir Island, off the north coast of Scotland. Nightcrawler was born in Bavaria, Germany, while Maverick was based in Berlin. The Banshees ancestral castle stands in County Mayo, Ireland. The young Magneto was once incarcerated in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland, where his family members were murdered. To the east, Peter, Illyana, and Mikhail Rasputin were born on a collective farm near Lake Baikal, Siberia.

Africa

One of the oldest known mutants, Apocalypse was born in Akkaba, Egypt, roughly five thousand years ago. It was in Cairo, Egypt, that Charles Xavier first battled the Shadow King, in the latter's guise of Amahl Farouk. As a child, Storm lived as a thief in the Egyptian capital before returning to her mother's homeland near Mount Kilimanjaro. Ahmet Abdol, the Living Monolith, was born in Cairo. Magneto's domain, Genosha, lies off Africa's east coast, and the X-Man Maggott was born in South Africa.

Asia and Australia

Cain Marko, Xavier's stepbrother, became the Juggernaut while serving in Korea. Tokyo, Japan, is the ancestral home of the powerful Yashida family, which includes Sunfire, the Silver Samurai, and Wolverine's late fiancée Mariko. It is also the base of the Super Hero team Big Hero 6. Lady Deathstrike was born in the southern city of Osaka. The island of Madripoor, the haven for criminals where Wolverine owns a bar, is located between Singapore and Sumatra. The X-Men were once temporarily based in the Northern Territory of Australia, and Pyro of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants was born in Sydney.

Anchorage, Alaska is where Scott Summers, alias Cyclops, was born and where his grandparents operate an air freight business. It is also where Scott first met the clone of Jean Grey, Madelyne Pryor.

In addition to being Wolverine's homeland, Canada has had its own Super Hero team, Alpha Flight, most recently based in Ottawa.

New York City has been a focus for mutant activity in recent years. Charles Xavier was born there, and his original school for mutants is situated not far outside the city. The Morlocks once lived in the maze of tunnels which run beneath the city's streets.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

San Francisco

Anchorage

Las Vegas
Site of the X-Men's battle with the Incredible Hulk

Los Angeles

Chicago

Kitty Pryde comes from Deerfield, a nearby suburb

New York

The X-Men first fought Magneto at the Cape Citadel missile base on the east coast of Florida

New Orleans
Home to Gambit and the Thieves' Guild

North America

Mutants have been particularly active in North America, not least because Charles Xavier's two schools for mutants are located on the East Coast, in Salem Center, New York, and Snow Valley, Massachusetts. Various mutant teams have been based around the continent, including the second X-Factor, which was situated in the Washington, D.C. area, the Defenders, who were based in the Rocky Mountains; the Champions, who were established in Los Angeles and X-Force, which is currently based in San Francisco.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE
Two of Magneto's bases are located on islands in this mysterious area.

MEXICO
Birthplace of Rictor

GUATEMALA
Joseph discovered by Sister Maria de la Hoya.

South America

Roberto DaCosta, alias Sunspot, was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His fellow New Mutant Magma and her enemy Selene both lived in Nova Roma, a city modeled after Ancient Rome, hidden deep in the Amazon jungle.

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro

SAMOA
Birthplace of Mondo

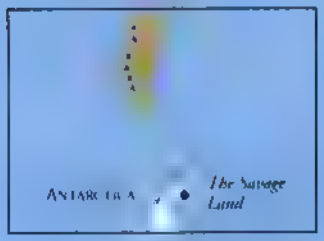
CHILE

In Tierra del Fuego, an island south of Chile, the young Karl Lycos was bitten by a Savage Land pterodactyl — an incident that triggered his transformation into Sauron.

TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Antarctica

The Savage Land, home to Ka-Zar, is located on the continent of Antarctica, where it is separated from the glaciers by a ring of volcanoes. Magneto's Antarctic base was located beneath a nearby volcano.



THE ANIMATED SHOW

The animated X-Men assembled: Cyclops, Jean Grey, Beast, Storm, Rogue, Gambit, Jubilee, Bishop, and Wolverine

IN THE 1990s, the X-Men moved from the pages of comic books and onto TV screens. There had been an unsuccessful attempt in the late 1980s to launch an X-Men animated series through a pilot episode, "Pryde of the X-Men." But it was not until 1992 that the first X-Men animated series made its debut. It was produced by the Saban animation studio and Graz Entertainment for the Fox network in the US. Aimed at an older, more sophisticated audience than most Saturday morning animated shows, the X-Men series took story lines and character concepts directly from the comics, even adapting the "Dark Phoenix Saga" and "Days of Future Past." This animated series ran for 76 episodes between 1992 and 1997.

X-MEN: EVOLUTION

The year 2000 saw the start of a new animated television series, *X-Men: Evolution*. This series depicted Cyclops, Jean Grey, Nightcrawler, Rogue, Kitty Pryde, and a new character, Storm's nephew Spike, as teenagers at the Xavier institute. Storm and Wolverine work with Professor X, and the local high school's principal is Mystique.

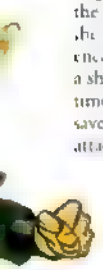
Around the world
Animation episodes were set in Genosha, Japan, Germany, Africa, and even outer space. On the left, Wolverine takes on Barbarus and Lupo, two of the Savage Land Mutates.

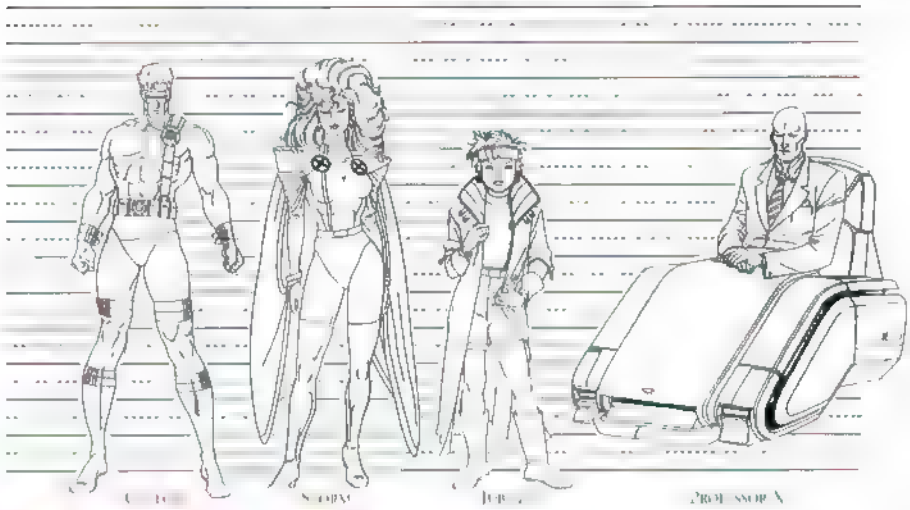
Variations on a theme

The animated series came up with variations on the original story lines from the *X-Men* comics. As in the comics, Jubilee first encountered the X-Men at a shopping mall. But this time the X-Men had to save her from a squad of attacking Sentinel robots.

Height chart

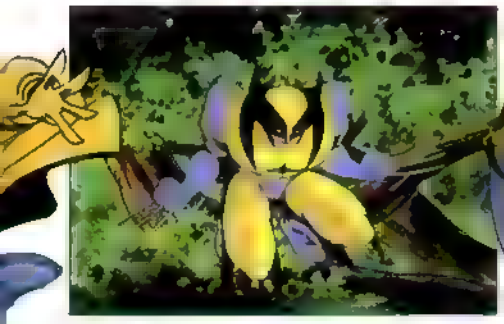
The show's many animations have to draw the characters in consistent style. This model shows the comparative heights of Cyclops, Storm, Jubilee, and Professor X.





Cast of characters

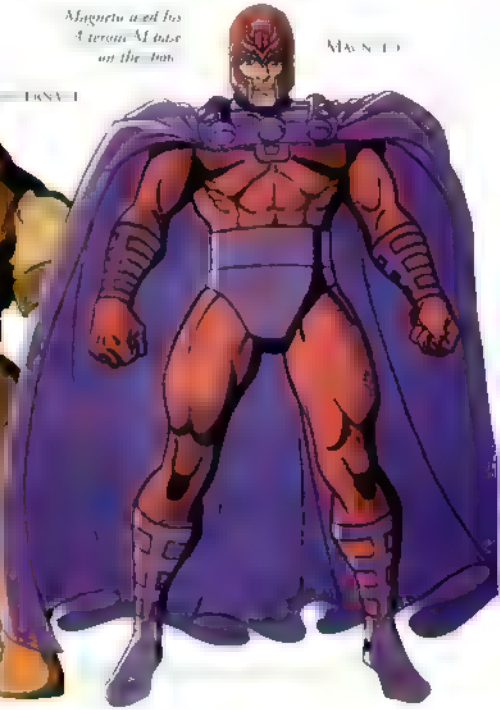
The Fox animated series ranged far beyond its core group of X-Men to feature other heroes from the X-Men universe. Archangel, Iceman, Colossus, Nightcrawler, Cable, Longshot, Dazzler, Forge, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, Ka-Zar, Maverick, and even Cannonball and Shard all made significant guest appearances. Alpha Flight turned up to try to capture Wolverine. The Starjammers and Lilandra showed up in episodes set in outer space. Even Captain America guest started in one of the final episodes.



VILLAINS

Among the many villains who appear in the Fox television series are Magneto, Apocalypse, Juggernaut, Sinister, Sabretooth, Mojo, the Sentinels, the Shadow King, O'Kon, Proteus, Sauron, Gorokk, the Friends of Humanity and the Phoenix.

Magneto used his Asteroid M base on the show.

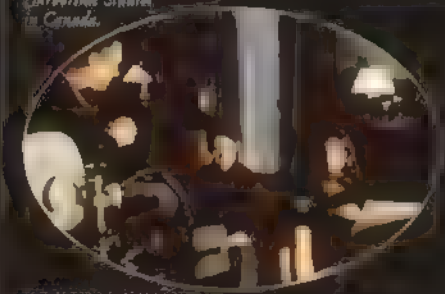


MAKING THE X-MEN MOVIE

STATUE OF LIBERTY
Since the film's climactic battle could not be filmed at the actual Statue of Liberty, the statue's torch and arm were recreated at Showline's Harborside Studios in Canada.

IT WAS IN 1994 that Twentieth Century Fox [illegible] producer Lauren Shuler-Donner secured th[illegible] make an *X-Men* movie. The following year [illegible] producer Tom DeSanto, a longtime *X-M*[illegible] trying to convince Bryan Singer to di[illegible] Singer finally agreed in 1996. Nearly [illegible] spent bringing the X-Men to the [illegible] writers tried their hands at the [illegible] finally credited to David Hayt[illegible] colorful costumes from the [illegible] sleek, black uniforms on film [illegible] created over five hundred [illegible] film opened spectacularly [illegible] ticket sales for a three-d[illegible]

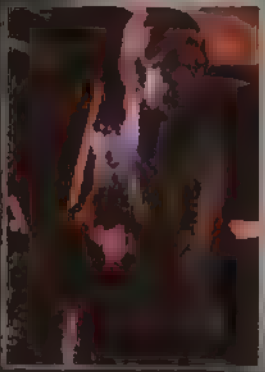
[illegible] Singer
[illegible] Singer di[illegible] and [illegible]ted on its [illegible] Singer's previou[illegible] the Oscar-[illegible] *Usual* [illegible] and [illegible]



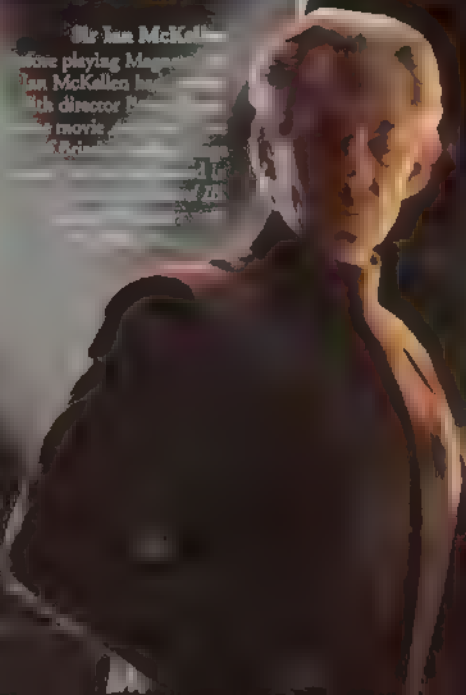
XAVIER'S MANSION
The filmmakers used the exteriors of buildings at the Berkwood Estate in Oshawa, Ontario to represent Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. Casa Loma, a Toronto landmark and tourist attraction, was used for interior [illegible] of the school.

Sir Ian McKel[illegible]
[illegible] playing Mag[illegible] Ian McKellen ha[illegible] [illegible]th director [illegible] movie [illegible]

UNDERGROUND BASE
The production team designed and [illegible] in the X-Men's secret base beneath the mansion. [illegible]



Rebecca Romijn-Stamos
Supermodel Rebecca Romijn-Stamos played the shapeshifting Mystique. It took eight to 15 hours to apply the body paint and 110 silicone prosthetics that gave her Mystique's scaly blue skin. And it also took hours [illegible]



Halle Berry

Golden Globe Award winner Halle
ays the regal and beautiful
e past credits include
films *Bulworth*,
Introducing

Hugh Jackman

Wolverine is Hugh Jackman's first major American screen role. Jackman has acted in films in his native Australia and won fame in Britain's National Theatre's production of the musical *Oklahoma*.

James Marsden

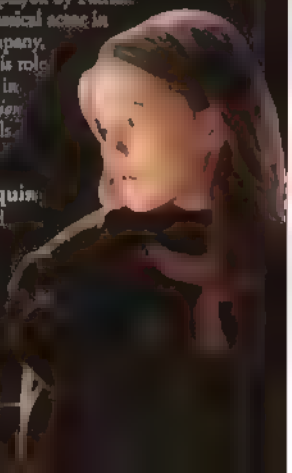
Behind Cyclops' ruby quartz glasses is actor James Marsden. Marden's other films include *Disturbing Behavior*, *Gossip*, and *Sugar and Spice*.

Ray Park

Scotland's Ray Park won fame as the sinister Darth Maul in *Star Wars* Episode I *The Phantom Menace*. The filmmakers altered the Toad character to take advantage of Park's renowned skills in acrobatics and the martial arts.

Patrick Stewart

Professor Charles Xavier is played by Patrick Stewart. A distinguished classical actor in the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stewart is best known for his role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and its various movie sequels.



Anna Paquin

The part of Rogue is played by Anna Paquin, who won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *The Piano* when she was still a child.

X-MEN—THE MOVIE

DURING THE 20th [illegible] race of humans—*Homo superior*—begin [illegible] One of the first of these "mutants" is a young boy [illegible] Lehnsherr. His powers first appear when he is sep[illegible] his parents in the concentration camp at Aus[illegible] World War II. Over [illegible] years later, some time [illegible] future, a young girl discovers her [illegible] when she kisses her boyfriend. [illegible] touch, she absorbs all of his thou[illegible] memories, throwing [illegible] Frightened, the girl [illegible] the meantime, hum[illegible] more and more aware of [illegible] emergence of this new breed of human [illegible] among them and is concerned [illegible] rising, as people [illegible] call for the [illegible] mutants.

SENATOR KELLY
Senator Robert Kelly advocates passing a Mutant Registration Act to force mutants into the open. As he debates with Dr. Jean Grey in Washington, D.C., two former friends watch. One is Charles Xavier, the secret head of the X-Men, and the other is Eric Lehnsherr, who has become Magneto, leader of the Brotherhood of Mutants.

Magneto's Plot

Having experienced persecution under the Nazis, Magneto is determined that mutants will not become the next victims of human oppression. The Brotherhood abducts Senator Kelly and brings him back to their hidden lair. Officials from around the world will soon attend a summit meeting in New York City. Magneto plans to transform them into mutants, forcing them to help the mutant cause.

Two losers
Two lone mutants—Wolverine and the runaway girl, Rogue—come to the attention of the X-Men and the Brotherhood. The X-Men rescue them from Sabretooth and bring them to Xavier's school. But Rogue runs away from the school, and Wolverine follows her to a nearby train station. Here Magneto and his Brotherhood attack and succeed in kidnapping Rogue.

SECRET WEAPON
Magneto's magnetic powers energize the device that transforms Senator Kelly into a mutant. But the effort severely weakens Magneto. If he is to transform everyone at the summit into mutants, he must find someone else who can power his machine.

Man into mutant

Transformed into a mutant by Magneto's machine, Senator Kelly discovers that his body has become soft and malleable. He escapes from his cell by squeezing through the bars of the window! As Magneto intended, Kelly now has a new sympathy toward mutants. But after the X-Men take the Senator in, his body completely dissolves!

TRANSFER OF POWER

Senator Kelly died because his body rejected the artificial mutation caused by Magneto's machine. Having learned about Magneto's device from Kelly, the X-Men now know that it will kill everyone else that Magneto tries to mutate. Moreover, they now realize why Magneto kidnapped Rogue. Powering the machine enough to transform everyone at the summit would kill Magneto. So (as shown above) Magneto uses Rogue's absorption power to temporarily transfer his magnetic powers to her. Then he will force her to power his machine, killing her in the process.

SHOWDOWN

As the summit commences on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, Magneto has installed his device on top of the Statue of Liberty. After racing there in the X-Jet, the X-Men battle against the Brotherhood. Magneto traps his foes inside the statue's head, but first Wolverine and then the others get free. Magneto compels Rogue to activate his device, and the lethal energies slowly spread towards Ellis Island and the entire city. Wolverine confronts Magneto on top of the statue, and Cyclops blasts apart the device just in time. Rogue returns to Xavier's school while Wolverine leaves in search of his past. Mystique escapes and, ironically, impersonates Senator Kelly to withdraw the Mutant Registration Act. Magneto is imprisoned in a cell constructed entirely of plastic where Xavier visits him and pledges that he will always be there to thwart Magneto's attacks against humanity.

X2: THE MOVIE

FOLLOWING THE WORLDWIDE success of the *X-Men* movie Twentieth Century Fox released *X2* in 2003. In this sequel, the U.S President responds to a mutant terrorist attack by permitting General William Stryker to combat mutants, including the X-Men. Stryker was partly based on the fanatical Reverend Stryker in Chris Claremont's graphic novel *X-Men, God Loves, Man Kills*. Bryan Singer returned to direct *X2* from a screenplay by David Hayter, Michael Dougherty, and Dan Harris.

STORM
Halle Berry returns as Storm following her Oscar-winning performance in Monster's Ball *and her role in* Die Another Day.

JEAN GREY
Dr. Jean Grey is once again portrayed by Famke Janssen, while Rebecca Romijn-Stamos comes back as the villainess Mystique.

PROFESSOR X
As Charles Xavier, Patrick Stewart plays a larger role in X2, in which Stryker's commandos assault Xavier's school for mutants.

X-men nemesis
British actor Brian Cox, the first actor to play Dr. Hannibal Lecter (in the 1986 film *Manhunter*), now portrays General William Stryker, who has his own sinister motives for attacking the X-Men.

Lady Deathstrike
Having appeared as the sorceress in *The Scorpion King*, Kelly Hu plays Stryker's aide Yuriko Oyama, known to comics readers as Lady Deathstrike.

Nightcrawler
Scottish actor Alan Cumming plays Nightcrawler in *X2*, wearing elaborate makeup, including strange, ritualistic scars. Other X-Men in the movie include Kitty Pryde (played by Katie Stuart) and Colossus (Daniel Cudmore).

Magneto, played by Ian McKellen, joins forces with Xavier against Stryker. The mutant Pyro, played by Aaron Stanford, must choose whether to remain Xavier's student or to join Magneto.

X3: THE MOVIE

IN MAY 2006, Twentieth Century Fox and Marvel's X-Men movie series became a trilogy with the release of *X3*. This third film had a new director, Brett Ratner, whose previous movies included *Red Dragon*, *After the Sunset*, and *Rush Hour 1* and *2*. The *X3* screenwriters have past experience with Super Heroes: Simon Kinberg (co-writer of the *Fantastic Four* movie) and Zak Penn (co-writer of *X2* and *Elektra*). The story centers on a cure for mutation, and introduces several familiar comics characters to the screen, including the Angel, the Beast, Callisto, the Juggernaut, Psylocke, Professor X's colleague Dr. Moira MacTaggert (played by Olivia Williams), and Dr. Kavita Rao (played by Shohreh Aghdashloo).

THE SENIOR STAFF
Among the actors returning in X3 were Patrick Stewart as Professor X, Hugh Jackman as Wolverine, and Halle Berry as Storm, here shown conversing with new cast addition Kelsey Grammer as the Beast. Anna Paquin and James Marsden also reappeared in X3 as Rogue and Cyclops.

SHADOWCAT
Having briefly appeared in the previous films, Kitty Pryde, codenamed Shadowcat, finally took center stage in "X3," as portrayed by teenage actress Ellen Page.

A highlight of X2 was the scene in which Shawn Ashmore, as Iceman Bobby Drake, told his family that he was a mutant. Ashmore has played Iceman in all three X-Men movies.

COLOSSUS
Daniel Cudmore returned as Piotr Rasputin, the Russian mutant Colossus, who can transform into a super-strong being composed of organic steel.

ANGEL
Ben Foster from the TV series Six Feet Under played Warren Worthington, the mutant aptly called the Angel. The filmmakers' spectacular recreation of Warren's wings made the Angel's screen debut well worth the wait.

Kitty Pryde and Bobby Drake skate around a French fountain outside Xavier's school.

With the debuts of Angel and Beast in X3, all five of the original X-Men have appeared in the X-Men movies.

The Beast
Best known for his role as Dr. Frasier Crane in the long-running TV series *Cheers* and *Frasier*, Kelsey Grammer plays the equally erudite Beast. Through an brilliant combination of makeup, prosthetics, and fur, Grammer was transformed into the living image of the Beast.

JEAN GREY: PHOENIX RISING
In the climax of X2, Jean Grey seemingly sacrificed her life using her telekinetic powers to save the other X-Men from a flood. But in X3 Jean [illegible] played by Famke Janssen. Has Jean become the far more powerful Phoenix? And, if so, what will this mean for the team?

CALLISTO
Another familiar character making her film debut is Callisto (Dania Ramirez), who led the mutant Morlocks in the X-Men comics.

MYSTIQUE ATTACKS!
Rebecca Romijn continued in her role as the enigmatic mutant shapeshifter Mystique in X3. In X2, Mystique made possible Magneto's escape from his "plastic prison" cell. In X3, she single-handedly takes on US government agents.

Enter the Juggernaut
Sir Ian McKellen returned as the X-Men's archfoe Magneto. Here Magneto, Mystique, and Pyro recruit another member for their new Brotherhood: the unstoppable Juggernaut, played by Vinnie Jones.

AFTERWORD

IT'S OFTEN BEEN SAID OF LIFE THAT IT'S FIRST DRAFT AND EXTEMPORE...

You make it up as you go along and rarely get the opportunity to try something again.

On the other hand, there's America, which is a country founded and built upon the concept of the second chance. As comedian Bill Murray once said, in the film *Stripes*, America is a nation of mongrels and rascals—folks who came to these shores because they were thrown out of someplace better. Since the days of the Vikings (who it seems really did make it here first) and Columbus, the hallmark of this land is that it holds forth the opportunity to make something better, irrespective of whatever came before. That's why my parents came here from England, after World War II, in search of a life that offered more—in the way of opportunity and also freedoms, from class and hidebound traditions—than they had known before. Here they felt was a place where opportunity was as boundless as the western horizons, where the past stood as a springboard to a brighter tomorrow. It was a land of dreams.

As is the realm of comics, and specifically that of the *X-Men*.

When I was half the age I am today, I tripped over one of those rare defining moments in the modern life of this medium that I and so many others love. I became the writer of the *X-Men*.

At the time, it was just a gig—a way to pay the rent and subsidize my nascent career as an actor. It was also a chance to work with an artist I greatly respected on characters I thought were extremely cool. In a word, it was fun.

As for the *X-Men* title itself, this was its second chance. Never a ferocious success over the half dozen or so years (and 70-odd issues) of its original incarnation, the concept had been redrafted and expanded somewhat for this new try. New characters, new look, a more kinetic and dynamic visual and storytelling approach—in tune with the attitudes of the times and building on the reputation Dave Cockrum had established drawing the *Legion of Super-Heroes* for our uptown rival, DC. He and I had no long-term expectations; by the same token, however, we also had nothing to lose. There were few expectations for the title. The editorial and marketing consensus was that the book would probably succeed about as well as it had before—meaning that it would stay a mid-list, bimonthly title until its next cancellation—the focus of most folks' attention was on the "franchise" titles: *Spider-Man*, *The Fantastic Four*, *the Incredible Hulk*, *the Avengers*, and *Thor*. As a consequence, Dave and I were left pretty much alone. Sort of by

omission, we were granted the freedom to find the book's true voice without interference, and as well to make mistakes, to learn from them and profit from them and grow as writer and penciler and storytellers.

The test—to call upon a much-maligned phrase, is history. The *X-Men's* second chance proved a bonanza for Marvel—and for the comics industry as a whole—of monumental proportions. Much of the comics landscape, for good *and* ill—that readers and scholars behold today is as much the result of the last quarter-century of the *X-Men* as the previous, ground-breaking work of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

As for me, in 1991—after 17 years of writing the book—and many of its associated titles in a canon that by that time (if spun off from the parent company) constituted one of the largest potential comics publishers in the country—I moved on to other opportunities.

Time passed, the wheels of life turned, some gambles paid off, others did not. Such is fate.

And then, quite unexpectedly, I found myself facing my own second chance with the book and characters that had come to define much of my professional life. *X-Men* and *Uncanny X-Men* needed a writer—preferably the same one for both titles, to give them a coherent and focused creative vision—and it was felt that the possible candidates didn't have the requisite creative or commercial clout our current marketplace demanded.

Marvel offered it to me.

At first, I was trepidatious, far too cognizant of Thomas Wolfe's classic dictum, "you can't go home again." Take up these titles, I not only assume responsibility for their success—and blame for their failure—I also possibly imperil the critical reputation I'd spent a lifetime building. It's easy to be God Emperor Emeritus of the *X-Men*; past glories are unassailable; you might say the writing sucks but it's hard to argue with those sales figures. Once I threw my pen back into the arena, though, all that becomes irrelevant. Instead, there's the thought he *used* to be good. There won't be as much freedom, writing two books in an unrelated canon of more than a dozen monthly titles, plus continuity from writers other than myself. These may have materially altered readers' perceptions of various characters and situations. No hope of anonymity here, especially with the internet looming over every thought and deed, dumpster diving for every possible tribit and scrap of gossip.

And yet... these were—and remain—characters I love. To me their stories are far from told. I'm often asked why I stayed on as writer of the book for over 17 years (first time around) and now why I've come back. To me that's almost a no-brainer. Over the course of a quarter-century, I've never lost interest in these characters and the struggles they go through to live their lives with a semblance of peace and dignity, and above all hope. The X-Men, for the most part, are outcasts, cut off from society, from friends, even from families by the genetic quirk that grants them wondrous powers. In the passage of their days

they face the same questions as the rest of [illegible] who am I, what do I want, where do I go from here? They have dreams and aspirations, for a [illegible] for a family. They have a future—even though at times it appears to be a bleak and [illegible]

When I was 17, just about to graduate from high school, Senator Robert Kennedy was [illegible]. In his eulogy, his brother Ted offered [illegible] quote that rings with me to this day, and [illegible] the X-Men: "some people see things as they are and say 'why?' My brother saw things that never were and said 'why not?'" The X-Men have [illegible] been a quest for [illegible] not so much the kind we're born with [illegible] we make through our friends and [illegible] associations. They're people who [illegible] rough hand, whose weaknesses match [illegible] incredible potentials—yet who are unbiased [illegible] dream of a better world, where [illegible] sixties martyr Dr. Martin Luther King [illegible] quirk of their genetic structure, but solely by the contents of their character.

People are wrong when they behold the *X-Men* as a book solely about prejudice, although that foundation gives it a weight, and [illegible] industry. It isn't even [illegible] the battle against prejudice, although that [illegible] and a [illegible] conflicts, between members of the team as well as the team's ongoing battles with "supervillains."

At bedrock, the *X-Men* is a book about hope. We are who we are, and our purpose in life is to try to make the world a better place than when we found it. Not simply for "mutant kind" but for the whole of humanity itself, because we are one species. We share a home, this world, and it's our obligation—in trust to each other as to succeeding [illegible] to care for it.

That to me is the title's enduring strength and why, after all this time, in the face of changing [illegible] it remains the preeminent comic in the United States. In the face of adversity, our heroes draw strength from one another and strive onward in service of an unquenchable hope, a dream, an ideal.

You can say the same about this country. And that's where the whole notion of second chances comes into play. I have children now, which wasn't the case when I started work on the *X-Men* [illegible] and when I left in 199[illegible]. For most of that [illegible] the X-Men stood as a [illegible] family. Now our [illegible] The stories I write today, and the characters themselves, have a passion and a focus they didn't have before, because I have someone tangible to write them for.

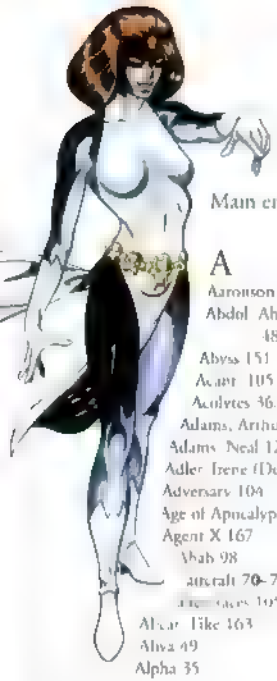
This is part of my legacy—as it is Stan Lee's and Jack Kirby's and Roy Thomas' and Neal Adams' and Len Weins' and Dave Cockrum's and [illegible] Byrne's and Archie Goodwin's and Louise

Simonson's, among many, many others. We stand upon giants that came before and [illegible] worth [illegible] that trust, as we [illegible] those who [illegible] will feel in return. We [illegible] did before the walls of Troy or at the Hot Gate, waiting for the next onslaught of Xerxes' army. Some flicker like spent candles and are [illegible] Some flames endure. What matters, what [illegible] has and always [illegible]

Fate allowed me to nurture one helluva flame when I was young, and now that torch has been passed to me again. Like the X-M[illegible] of rebirth and renewal, in a new century that is [illegible]

on their part that things will work out all right in the end [illegible] future, their destiny is their own [illegible] They choose to do so [illegible]

CHRIS CLAREMONT



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Peter Sanderson is a popular historian specializing in the American comic book. He is the author of *Marvel Universe*, a critical survey of Marvel comics characters and stories over four decades. He has worked as an assistant editor and staff archivist for Marvel. He has also contributed to *The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe*, and various magazines about comics, including *The Comics Journal*, *Wizard*, and *Comics Buyer's Guide*.

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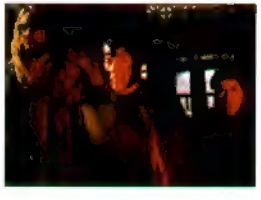

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